

## 2009 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature

The Louisiana Legislature convened at noon on April 27, 2009 for its regular session. Listed below are summaries of education, school and student related pre-filed bills that are being considered this session. Please refer to [www.legis.state.la.us](http://www.legis.state.la.us) for more information.

### House Bills

#### **House Bill No. 6**

**Date Filed:** 2/9/2009

**Who:** Representative Patricia Haynes Smith

**Status:** Considered by House Ways and Means on 5/21/2009

**Summary:** This bill serves to increase the tax credit for children's educational expenses from the current \$25 to \$100. Eligible taxpayers would be entitled to this amount, per child, for educational and related expenses.

#### **House Bill No. 46**

**Date Filed:** 3/13/2009

**Who:** Representative Clifton R. Richardson

**Status:** Considered by House Ways and Means on 5/28/2009

**Summary:** This bill proposes an income tax deduction for enrollment tuition in LA 4 classes, certain early childhood development and enrichment activity classes.

#### **House Bill No. 47**

**Date Filed:** 3/13/2009

**Who:** Representative Rickey Hardy (Primary Author)

**Status:** Involuntarily deferred in House Education

**Summary:** This bill proposes that public school students in grades 6 through 12 be required to hold at least a 2.0 GPA in order to participate in interscholastic athletics and other extracurricular activities.

#### **House Bill No. 89**

**Date Filed:** 3/25/2009

**Who:** Representative Richard T. Burford

**Status:** Assigned to House Education

**Summary:** This bill serves to delete the requirement of LA 4 classes to maintain the required level of funding from any source for any early childhood education, in each year of participation, as provided in the previous year.

#### **House Bill No. 103**

**Date Filed:** 3/25/2009

**Who:** Representative John LaBruzzo

**Status:** Considered by House Ways and Means on 5/20/2009

**Summary:** This bill proposes a refundable credit against the individual income tax of a foster parent to provide for their child's education in a nonpublic elementary or secondary school.

**House Bill No. 112**

**Date Filed:** 3/27/2009

**Who:** Representative Jack Montoucet

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill is relative to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) and provides that foreign teachers holding J-1 visas who are teaching in a Louisiana public school through a J-1 exchange visitor program shall be members of the TRSL.

**House Bill No. 114**

**Date Filed:** 3/27/2009

**Who:** Representative Rickey Hardy

**Status:** Involuntarily deferred in House Retirement

**Summary:** This bill prohibits retirees who are reemployed in any position other than classroom teacher from receiving retirement benefits during the period of reemployment, relative to the TRSL.

**House Bill No. 156**

**Date Filed:** 3/31/2009

**Who:** Representative Harold L. Ritchie

**Status:** Involuntarily deferred in House Retirement

**Summary:** This bill requires certain charter school employees to be members of the TRSL.

**House Bill No. 176**

**Date Filed:** 4/3/2009

**Who:** Representative J. Rogers Pope

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill allows a student, at least in ninth grade and less than fifteen years old, to participate in the classroom instruction component of driver education and training, as operated by Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

**House Bill No. 179**

**Date Filed:** 4/3/2009

**Who:** Representative Charmaine Marchand Stiaes

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill prohibits the use of test scores, including LEAP test scores, as the sole determinant of student promotion to the succeeding grade.

**House Bill No. 183**

**Date Filed:** 4/6/2009

**Who:** Representative Frank A. Hoffmann

**Status:** Becomes Act No. 31

**Summary:** This bill authorizes BESE to establish an appeals process for applicants denied teacher certification. Applicants would appeal to the Teacher Certification Appeals Council.

**House Bill No. 187**

**Date Filed:** 4/7/2009

**Who:** Representative Patricia Haynes Smith

**Status:** Adopted by the House; Adopted by the Senate

**Summary:** This bill is relative to the creation of Type 3 or Type 4 charter schools by means of converting preexisting public schools. It permits, rather than requires, the approval by members of the faculty and staff of the preexisting school of charter proposals and retains processes and guidelines for obtaining such approvals.

**House Bill No. 193**

**Date Filed:** 4/7/2009

**Who:** Representative Charles R. Chaney

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill provides for rules and regulations for school nutrition programs and a limitation of liability relative to such programs.

**House Bill No. 209**

**Date Filed:** 4/7/2009

**Who:** Representative Patrick C. Williams

**Status:** Considered by House Education on 5/19/2009

**Summary:** This bill proposes that LEAP test requirements for 4th and 8th grade students to be promoted to the 5th and 9th grades shall not apply to students with exceptionalities.

**House Bill No. 218**

**Date Filed:** 4/7/2009

**Who:** Representative Rickey Hardy

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill proposes that the governing authority of all secondary and elementary schools, including charter schools, shall adopt and implement policies that provide for the inspection of all fire safety and prevention equipment. It also requires necessary actions taken, in a timely manner, to have equipment in good working order.

**House Bill No. 223**

**Date Filed:** 4/7/2009

**Who:** Representative James K. Armes

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill is relative to noncomplex health procedures that are performed by certain school employees and serves to allow tracheotomy suctioning to be performed by those employees.

**House Bill No. 246**

**Date Filed:** 4/9/2009

**Who:** Representative Thomas H. McVea (Primary Author)

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill permits, with voter approval, certain school systems created by the legislature after Jan. 1, 1999, to incur bonded debt that exceeds 10% but does not exceed 50% of

the assessed valuation of the taxable property within the geographic boundaries of the school system.

**House Bill No. 274**

**Date Filed:** 4/9/2009

**Who:** Representative Ricky J. Templett

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill provides for increased penalties for battery and for assault of a school teacher.

**House Bill No. 308**

**Date Filed:** 4/13/2009

**Who:** Representative H. Bernard LeBas

**Status:** Adopted by the House; Reported favorably by Senate Education; Considered by Senate Finance on 6/21/2009

**Summary:** This bill serves to allow eligible students in Louisiana nonpublic high schools or home study programs to participate in dual enrollment program at postsecondary education institutions as applicable to a student in a Louisiana public high school.

**House Bill No. 319**

**Date Filed:** 4/13/2009

**Who:** Representative Thomas P. Willmott

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill proposes that the governing body of schools with grades 10 and/or 12 shall provide for the students enrolled in those grades at least thirty minutes of age and grade appropriate instruction relative to the state's safe haven relinquishment law.

**House Bill No. 343**

**Date Filed:** 4/13/2009

**Who:** Representative Herbert B. Dixon

**Status:** Assigned to House Ways & Means

**Summary:** This bill authorizes a corporate income tax deduction for employers who grant their employees paid leave to participate in parental involvement in schools during working hours.

**House Bill No. 371**

**Date Filed:** 4/14/2009

**Who:** Representative Stephen F. Carter (Primary Author)

**Status:** Voluntarily deferred by the author

**Summary:** This bill removes exceptions to nepotism provisions relative to the employment or promotion of the family member of a superintendent who is employed by the school board.

**House Bill No. 389**

**Date Filed:** 4/14/2009

**Who:** Representative Hunter V. Greene

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill deletes the termination date of the exemption for purchases and leases of educational materials and equipment used for classroom instruction by nonpublic schools.

**House Bill No. 393**

**Date Filed:** 4/14/2009

**Who:** Representative Juan A. LaFonta

**Status:** Becomes Act No. 34

**Summary:** This bill provides for fees collected by the commissioner of insurance to be set at \$250 for review of a continuing education provider application and at \$25 for review of a continuing education program application.

**House Bill No. 400**

**Date Filed:** 4/14/2009

**Who:** Representative Patrick C. Williams (Primary Author)

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill requires public schools to provide at least 60 minutes of physical activity each school day for students in kindergarten through 8th grade and instruction in physical education as a prerequisite to high school graduation.

**House Bill No. 440**

**Date Filed:** 4/14/2009

**Who:** Representative Regina Ashford Barrow (Primary Author)

**Status:** Considered by House Education on 5/27/2009

**Summary:** This bill prohibits the use of test scores, including LEAP test scores, as the sole criteria of student promotion to the succeeding grade.

**House Bill No. 461**

**Date Filed:** 4/14/2009

**Who:** Representative Elton M. Aubert

**Status:** Reported favorably by House Education; Considered by House Commerce on 5/28/2009

**Summary:** This bill requires the dissemination of information concerning consumer credit cards to undergraduate students be restricted by the public postsecondary school. It provides an exception for information concerning consumer credit cards provided to an undergraduate student when such information is a component of the student's course of study.

**House Bill No. 495**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Representative Herbert B. Dixon

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill exempts a school that meets specified criteria from being removed from the jurisdiction of the local school board and transferred to the Recovery School District (RSD).

**House Bill No. 496**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Representative Joe Harrison

**Status:** Considered by House Education on 5/27/2009

**Summary:** This bill abolishes BESE, transfers its functions to the state superintendent of education, provides for appointment of superintendent by governor, provides for proposal of the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula by superintendent, and permits legislative amendment of MFP formula.

**House Bill No. 498**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Representative Jean Doerge

**Status:** Involuntarily deferred in House Education

**Summary:** This bill permits a local superintendent of schools to provide services, contractual or otherwise, to the state Department of Education, BESE, or the RSD, or any combination of such entities.

**House Bill No. 504**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Representative Anthony V. Ligi, Jr.

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill provides term limits for members of the Jefferson Parish School Board.

**House Bill No. 511**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Representative Joe Harrison

**Status:** Adopted by the House; Considered by Senate Revenue & Fiscal Affairs on 6/18/2009

**Summary:** This bill provides that the requirement for enactment of a law by a two-thirds vote of the legislature for the state to impose any new fee or increase in an existing fee shall not apply to new or increases in tuition amounts or mandatory fees imposed by a public postsecondary education management board.

**House Bill No. 519**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Representative Walt Leger, III

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill sets a minimum on the fee that can be negotiated between a school chartering authority and a charter school to cover administrative costs of the chartering authority. It will be applicable to all years after the first year and the minimum amount will be 2% of the per pupil funding amount received by the school. Removes cap on number of charter schools allowed.

**House Bill No. 525**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Representative Billy R. Chandler

**Status:** Assigned to House Education

**Summary:** This bill serves to provide a \$5,000 annual salary supplement to full-time teachers employed in economically distressed school systems, effective for the 2009-2010 school year and thereafter. It will be subject to the appropriation of funds for such purpose.

**House Bill No. 531**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Representative Cameron Henry

**Status:** Adopted by the House; Adopted by the Senate with amendments; Amendments rejected by the House; House and Senate conference committee convened

**Summary:** This bill provides eligibility for certain home study students to participate in public school interscholastic extracurricular activities.

**House Bill No. 535**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Representative Patrick C. Williams

**Status:** Adopted by the House; Adopted by the Senate

**Summary:** This bill creates the Simulation Medical Training and Education Council for Louisiana, a statewide council within the Health Works Commission to oversee the coordination of resources involving medical simulation training centers.

**House Bill No. 545**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Representative Harold L. Ritchie

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill requires principals of public schools where a student was enrolled to release the student's records to a public or nonpublic school (inside or outside Louisiana) where the student is enrolled or seeking enrollment. It requires records to contain information on suspension as well as expulsion.

**House Bill No. 546**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Representative Jonathan W. Perry

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill authorizes the Vermilion Parish School Board to sell certain 16th section land.

**House Bill No. 568**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Representative Nita Rusich Hutter

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill provides certain guarantees to students with associate degrees who seek to enroll in public postsecondary education institutions that offer baccalaureate degrees.

**House Bill No. 570**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Representative Frank A. Hoffmann (Primary Author)

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill requires that the governing authority at public elementary and secondary schools establish the policies, procedures, and practices concerning electronic communications by an employee at a school to a student at that school.

**House Bill No. 571**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Representative Barbara M. Norton

**Status:** Failed to pass out of House Education on 6/16/2009

**Summary:** This bill prohibits corporal punishment in public elementary and secondary schools, beginning with the 2009-2010 school year.

**House Bill No. 576**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Representative Robert A. Johnson

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill authorizes the state superintendent of education, with BESE approval, to set certain rates and fees for the Cecil J. Picard Educational and Recreational Center in Bunkie, Louisiana.

**House Bill No. 590**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Representative Regina Ashford Barrow

**Status:** Adopted by the House; Adopted by the Senate

**Summary:** This bill requires public school governing authorities to ensure that a child in foster care is allowed to remain enrolled in the same school in which he was enrolled upon entering foster care. It also requires such governing authorities and Department of Social Services (DSS) to provide for transportation if foster care placement is beyond school's jurisdictional boundaries.

**House Bill No. 602**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Representative H. Bernard LeBas

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill allows public school students to carry and self-administer certain medications under certain conditions.

**House Bill No. 612**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Representative James R. "Jim" Fannin

**Status:** Adopted by the House; Adopted by the Senate with amendments; Conference committee reported adopted by the House and Senate

**Summary:** This bill provides for separate high school diplomas for the academic major and the career major. It also provides for required courses in the career major for students in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades.

**House Bill No. 616**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Representative Avon R. Honey

**Status:** Considered by House Education on 5/27/2009

**Summary:** This bill permits students not initially eligible for Taylor Opportunity Program for

Students (TOPS) award to be eligible for the award based on the student meeting all requirements established for a person who initially receives the program award.

**House Bill No. 621**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Representative Frank A. Hoffmann

**Status:** Becomes Act No. 43

**Summary:** This bill additionally requires BESE to implement certain policies relative to the certification of foreign associate teachers.

**House Bill No. 651**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Representative James K. Armes

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill provides for the rehiring of certain retired school bus drivers without a reduction in benefits.

**House Bill No. 664**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Representative Stephen F. Carter (Primary Author)

**Status:** Involuntarily deferred in House & Governmental Affairs

**Summary:** This bill provides term limits for members of city, parish, and other local public school boards.

**House Bill No. 686**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Representative Thomas G. Carmody

**Status:** Adopted by the House; Reported favorably by Senate Education

**Summary:** This bill requires authorizing entities to engage in an application review process for the creation of a charter school that complies with specified principles and standards. It will also allow for the independent evaluation of a qualified third party.

**House Bill No. 688**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Representative Jack Montoucet

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill is relative to the unlawful disruption of the operation of a school. It will create the crime of the unlawful disruption of the operation of a school and provide for penalties related matters.

**House Bill No. 689**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Representative Karen Carter Peterson

**Status:** Adopted by the House; Adopted by the Senate with amendments; Amendments rejected by the House; House and Senate conference committee convened

**Summary:** This bill creates the Statewide Educational Facilities Fund in the state treasury.

**House Bill No. 721**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Representative Robert A. Johnson

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill is relative to the funding of special education and related services for students living in private residential facilities who are neither Louisiana residents nor in the permanent custody of a Louisiana state agency.

**House Bill No. 731**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Representative Hollis Downs (Primary Author)

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill is relative to the habitual absence and tardiness of students, and serves to include penalties for violations by parents and legal guardians/custodians of such students.

**House Bill No. 741**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Representative Austin J. Badon, Jr. (Primary Author)

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill provides relative to the hiring of employees by local public school boards and the disclosure of information of certain instances of sexual misconduct, abuse, and neglect relative thereto.

**House Bill No. 752**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Representative Austin J. Badon, Jr.

**Status:** Reported favorably by House Education

**Summary:** This bill allows the Recovery School District (RSD) to enroll certain students in a virtual or cyber school or educational program under certain circumstances.

**House Bill No. 767**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Representative Patrick C. Williams (Primary Author)

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill is relative to beverages offered for sale to students in public high schools. It deletes the requirement that the beverages offered for sale to public high school students shall be comprised of no less than 50% for approved beverages.

**House Bill No. 771**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Representative Nita Rusich Hutter

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill authorizes Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) to set a uniform tuition amount for all online courses offered by institutions under its jurisdiction.

**House Bill No. 794**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Representative Jim Tucker

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill requires the Board of Regents to establish the Postsecondary Education Review Commission to review all aspects of postsecondary education and report to the legislature.

**House Bill No. 808**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Representative Stephen F. Carter

**Status:** Voluntarily deferred in House Education

**Summary:** This bill provides relative to compensation and benefits for local school board members.

**House Bill No. 821**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Representative Stephen F. Carter (Primary Author)

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill requires BESE to require public school boards to allocate and report certain education funding in certain ways.

**House Bill No. 830**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Representative Jim Tucker

**Status:** Adopted by the House; Assigned to Senate Health & Welfare

**Summary:** This bill establishes a board to possess, use, control, and manage the Medical Center of Louisiana at New Orleans.

**House Bill No. 839**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Representative Patricia Haynes Smith

**Status:** Considered by House Education on 5/19/2009

**Summary:** This bill requires state superintendent to possess specific minimum qualifications provided by law at the time of appointment. It also authorizes BESE to establish by rule minimum qualifications not inconsistent with those required by law.

**House Bill No. 848**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Representative Patricia Haynes Smith

**Status:** Considered by House Education on 6/2/2009

**Summary:** This bill provides for certain reductions to the Recovery School District's (RSD) annual appropriation with regard to certain retiree health care costs of a school system in which one or more of its schools has been transferred to the RSD and for allocations of such amount to the prior school system.

**House Bill No. 851****Date Filed:** 4/17/2009**Who:** Representative Stephen F. Carter**Status:** Reported favorably by House Education; Failed House final passage**Summary:** This bill is relative to the powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities of city, parish, and other local public school boards including prohibitions on the involvement of members of local school boards in certain administrative matters. It provides for the vote required for hiring and removal of a local school superintendent.**House Bill No. 852****Date Filed:** 4/17/2009**Who:** Representative M.J. "Mert" Smiley, Jr.**Status:** Adopted by the House; Adopted by the Senate with amendments; Conference committee report adopted by the House and Senate**Summary:** This bill repeals some boards and commissions and like entities, including the Adult Learning Task Force, the Educational Assessment Testing Commission, the Interim school board for the Central Community School System, the Louisiana Council on Obesity Prevention and Management and Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports (but not the rest of R.S. 17:51 regarding required physical activity in schools), the HIPPY Advisory Board (but not the HIPPY coordinator), and the Process Technology Advisory Board.**Senate Bills****Senate Bill No. 19****Date Filed:** 3/24/2009**Who:** Senator A.G. Crowe**Status:** Reported favorably by Senate Education; Recommitted to Senate Finance**Summary:** This bill creates the TOPS-Tech Plus Award for recipients who have been awarded an associate degree with a minimum 2.5 GPA on a 4.00 scale and who will enroll in an eligible college or university to pursue an academic associate or undergraduate degree.**Senate Bill No. 85****Date Filed:** 4/13/2009**Who:** Senator D.A. "Butch" Gautreaux**Status:** Considered by Senate Education on 5/28/2009**Summary:** This bill proposes a cap on TOPS awards, beginning 2010-2011 school year; the amount would be exclusive of any additional payments awarded to students who qualify to receive a Performance or Honors award.**Senate Bill No. 87****Date Filed:** 4/14/2009**Who:** Senator Gerald Long**Status:** Reported favorably by Senate Education; Recommitted to Senate Finance**Summary:** This bill allows the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to determine the requirements for experience teachers' participation in the Teacher Assistance and Assessment Program.

**Senate Bill No. 90**

**Date Filed:** 4/14/2009

**Who:** Senator Cheryl Gray-Evans

**Status:** Adopted by the Senate; Failed House Appropriations

**Summary:** This bill creates the Louisiana Statewide Education Facilities Authority within the Department of Education. The purpose of the authority is to provide funding, coordination, assistance, and oversight for the repair, renovation, and construction of public school facilities.

**Senate Bill No. 94**

**Date Filed:** 4/14/2009

**Who:** Senator Jack Donahue (Primary Author)

**Status:** Adopted by the Senate; Adopted by the House

**Summary:** This bill creates the crime of molestation of a juvenile involving an educator.

**Senate Bill No. 120**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Senator Dale M. Erdey

**Status:** Becomes Act 78

**Summary:** This bill allows the Livingston Parish School Board to create new school districts that overlap the boundaries of existing school districts.

**Senate Bill No. 129**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Senator Yvonne Dorsey

**Status:** Adopted by the Senate; Adopted by the House

**Summary:** This bill requires Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC) to adopt guidelines and procedures permitting the commission, for the 2007-2008 academic year and thereafter, to receive and consider an application to return from an out-of-state college or university that is received after the final deadline for such applications, with the same reductions in award eligibility for any awards granted districts.

**Senate Bill No. 146**

**Date Filed:** 4/15/2009

**Who:** Senator Ann D. Duplessis (Primary Author)

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill requires BESE and local school boards to follow the charter school application review process set out by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers and to provide an independent evaluation of charter school proposals by a qualified third party. Additionally, it allows charter schools to give preference to siblings submitting applications to enroll and removes the prohibition of support and affiliation with religion or religious organizations.

**Senate Bill No. 161**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Senator Robert M. Marionneaux, Jr. (Primary Author)

**Status:** Assigned to Senate Revenue & Fiscal Affairs

**Summary:** This bill deletes a requirement that, to obtain the deduction for elementary and secondary school expenses, payments for school uniforms, certain instructional materials, and school supplies, the payments must be made to public schools. It requires actual payment to obtain the deduction; and limits the deduction to \$5,000 per student who is a dependent of the taxpayer.

**Senate Bill No. 182**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Senator A.G. Crowe

**Status:** Adopted by the Senate; Adopted by the House

**Summary:** This bill authorizes the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges to transfer specified state properties to the St. Tammany Parish School Board.

**Senate Bill No. 183**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Senator Conrad Appel

**Status:** Adopted by the Senate; Adopted by the House with amendments; Amendments rejected by the Senate; House and Senate conference committee convened

**Summary:** This bill exempts certain higher education tuition and fee amounts at certain public institutions designated as research universities from the requirements for imposing and increasing fees.

**Senate Bill No. 213**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Senator Dan Claitor

**Status:** Assigned to Senate Finance

**Summary:** This bill creates a higher education academic endowment fund from unused monies in the Insure Louisiana Incentive Program Fund.

**Senate Bill No. 220**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Senator Jean-Paul "JP" Morrell

**Status:** Voluntarily deferred in Senate Education

**Summary:** This bill provides that local school boards located in parishes with a population greater than 470,000 are required to provide bus transportation only to students attending public schools directly operated by the local school board.

**Senate Bill No. 223**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Senator Dan Claitor

**Status:** Adopted by the Senate; Adopted by the House

**Summary:** This bill provides relative to the removal of students from the classroom for certain inappropriate behavior and for parental notification and involvement.

**Senate Bill No. 259**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Senator Robert W. Kostelka (Primary Author)

**Status:** Adopted by the Senate; Adopted by the House

**Summary:** This bill requires that each major have a corresponding diploma, that the academic major diploma be adopted by BESE and offered by each public school board, that the career major diploma be developed and proposed by each public school board, and that BESE have final approval of each career major and corresponding diploma.

**Senate Bill No. 281**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Senator Conrad Appel

**Status:** Adopted by the Louisiana Legislature; Sent to the Governor

**Summary:** This bill establishes the Schepis Museum as a facility in the town of Columbia, parish of Caldwell, under the overall jurisdiction of the Department of State.

**Senate Bill No. 285**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Senator Ben W. Nevers

**Status:** Adopted by the Senate; Adopted by the House

**Summary:** This bill provides for a comprehensive system of articulation and transfer of credit between and among public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions.

**Senate Bill No. 309**

**Date Filed:** 4/17/2009

**Who:** Senator Cheryl Gray-Evans

**Status:** Adopted by the Senate; Adopted by the House

**Summary:** This bill provides for health-related fitness assessments to determine physical fitness levels of students in schools.

**Senate Bill No. 316**

**Date Filed:** 4/16/2009

**Who:** Senator Ben W. Nevers

**Status:** Adopted by the Senate; Adopted by the House

**Summary:** This bill provides for a comprehensive approach to improve graduation rates and ensure college and career readiness for high school students.

**Senate Bill No. 324**

**Date Filed:** 5/5/2009

**Who:** Senator Eric LaFleur

**Status:** Adopted by the Senate; Adopted by the House

**Summary:** This bill authorizes school districts under the Evangeline Parish School Board to increase the sales tax, not to exceed one percent.