

LOUISIANA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District	Representative	Grade	District	Representative	Grade	District	Representative	Grade	District	Representative	Grade
98	Abramson	C	10	Doerge	A	87	Jackson, Girod III	B	73	Pugh	C
21	Anders	C	52	Dove	F	61	Jackson, Michael	B	55	Richard	F
30	Armes	A	12	Downs	B	28	Johnson	A	65	Richardson	F
102	Arnold	C	72	Edwards	A	17	Jones, Rosalind	A	75	Ritchie	A
58	Aubert	B	20	Ellington	D	50	Jones, Sam	B	45	Robideaux	F
39	Badon, Bobby	C	13	Fannin	C	16	Katz	F	25	Roy, Jr.	C
100	Badon, Jr., Austin	B	70	Foil	F	36	Kleckley	F	77	Schroder	D
53	Baldone	B	34	Franklin	A	81	LaBruzzo	F	5	Seabaugh	F
48	Barras	B	11	Gallot	A	96	LaFonta	B	74	Simon	F
29	Barrow	B	35	Geymann	F	59	Lambert	D	88	Smiley, Jr.	D
83	Billiot	C	54	Gisclair	B	31	Landry	D	8	Smith, Jane	D
101	Bishop	B	66	Greene	F	38	LeBas	B	56	Smith, Jr., Gary	A
97	Brossett	B	41	Guillory	D	91	Leger	B	67	Smith, Patricia	A
7	Burford	F	37	Guinn	D	79	Ligi	D	60	St. Germain	A
9	Burns, Henry	D	44	Hardy	D	14	Little	F	99	Stiaes	A
89	Burns, Tim	F	51	Harrison	B	80	Lopinto	F	78	Talbot	F
2	Burrell	B	27	Hazel	D	94	Lorusso	F	85	Templet	F
6	Carmody	F	103	Henderson	B	62	McVea	D	18	Thibaut	B
68	Carter	D	82	Henry	F	57	Monica	C	40	Thierry	B
49	Champagne	C	47	Hensgens	D	42	Montoucet	A	86	Tucker	F
22	Chandler	C	32	Hill	B	93	Moreno	C	64	White	F
19	Chaney	C	95	Hines	C	1	Morris	F	4	Williams	B
84	Connick	C	15	Hoffmann	B	3	Norton	B	92	Willmott	C
43	Cortez	F	63	Honore	B	23	Nowlin	B	105	Wooton	B
90	Cromer	F	24	Howard	D	76	Pearson	C			
33	Danahay	C	104	Hutter	B	69	Ponti	F			
26	Dixon	A	46	Huval	C	71	Pope	B			

LOUISIANA STATE SENATE

DISTRICT	SENATOR	GRADE	DISTRICT	SENATOR	GRADE	DISTRICT	SENATOR	GRADE	DISTRICT	SENATOR	GRADE
36	Adley	A	1	Crowe	F	31	Long	D	12	Nevers	A
8	Alario	B	11	Donahue	C	17	Marionneaux, Jr.	A	26	Perry	B
18	Amedee	C	14	Dorsey	A	10	Martiny	B	5	Peterson	A
9	Appel	C	13	Erdey	C	29	McPherson	B	6	Quinn	F
15	Broome	A	21	Gautreaux	A	23	Michot	B	32	Riser	F
20	Chabert	D	24	Guillory	B	22	Mills	A	37	Shaw	A
19	Chaisson, II	B	7	Heitmeier	B	3	Morrell	A	30	Smith	F
38	Cheek	A	39	Jackson	A	25	Morrish	C	34	Thompson	A
16	Claitor	C	35	Kostelka	A	27	Mount	A	33	Walsworth	C
			28	LaFleur	A	4	Murray	A	2	Willard-Lewis	A

LEGISLATION GRADED:

HB 101: LAE opposed passage of HB 101. LAE opposes the passage of any legislation that would reduce or eliminate due process for teachers and/or education support professionals. The Louisiana Association of Educators supports school bus drivers' rights under state law to obtain "regular and permanent status" as a school bus driver. Obtaining this status promotes professionalism and affords protections to bus drivers that have proven their status through a three year probationary and evaluation process. HB 101 would have taken away vital protections from school bus drivers. Under current law, bus drivers who have obtained "regular and permanent operator" status are protected from arbitrary and adverse actions, such as, false allegations of wrongdoing, political reprisal, nepotism, and coercive practices. HB 101 failed to pass 33-62 on May 17, 2011. **A "no" vote on final passage of HB 101 supported the LAE position (House Vote #H-101).**

HB 112: LAE supported passage of HB 112. Currently under present law, school boards are required to adopt and incorporate into its student code of conduct a policy prohibiting the harassment, intimidation, and bullying of a student by another student. Current law exempts the parishes of Livingston, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, St. Helena, and Tangipahoa. HB 112 proposed to delete the exception for the six specified parishes and further define the terms "harassment", "intimidation," and "bullying" to include an intimidating, threatening, or abusive gesture or written, verbal, or physical act that a reasonable person under the circumstances would perceive as being motivated by a characteristic, rather than to a gesture or written, verbal, or physical act, that is reasonably perceived as being motivated by a characteristic such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, physical characteristic, political persuasion, mental disability, and physical disability, as well as attire or association with others identified by such categories. House Floor Amendment #84 by Alan Seabaugh which was adopted on the House Floor by a vote of 52-39 on May 19, 2011, removed the original intent of HB 112. **A "no" vote on the Seabaugh Amendment (#84) supported the LAE position (HB112-Amend #84).**

HB 150: LAE supported passage of HB 150. HB 150 proposed additions to the definition of "retired teacher," and therefore to the list of reemployed retirees who may receive a benefit during reemployment. Under HB 150 retirees reemployed as adjunct professors engaged in the instruction of students or in research are added to the definition of "retired teacher". HB 150 further provides that the earnings of any such adjunct professor shall not exceed 25% of his retirement benefit in any fiscal year. If earnings exceed this amount, such professor's retirement benefit will be reduced by the amount in excess of the 25%. The House passed the conference committee report by a vote of 91-0 on June 23, 2011, which rejected costly amendments and added a provision that the Act would take effect upon the enactment of Senate Bill 6. **A "yes" vote on the House conference committee report supported the LAE position.** The Senate passed the conference committee report by a vote of 36-0 on June 23, 2011. **A "yes" vote on the Senate conference committee report supported the LAE position. SB 6 was ultimately vetoed by Governor Jindal on July 1, 2011, therefore, HB 150 will not take effect.**

HB 151: LAE supported passage of HB 151. HB 151 relative to

the Teachers' Retirement System of La. (TRSL), allows a person who retired between April 30, 2009, and July 1, 2010, and who returns to a position requiring a teaching or ancillary certificate, to receive a retirement benefit during reemployment. HB 151 further provides that the earnings of any such person shall not exceed 25% of his retirement benefit in any fiscal year. If earnings exceed this amount, such person's retirement benefit will be reduced by the amount in excess of the 25%. The House passed HB 151 by a vote of 72-18 on June 13, 2011. **A "yes" vote on House final passage of HB 151 supported the LAE position.** The Senate passed HB 151 by a vote of 38-0 on June 20, 2011. **A "yes" vote on Senate final passage of HB 151 supported the LAE position. HB 151 was signed by the Governor on June 29, 2011 and became Act 347.**

HB 369: LAE supported passage of HB 369. HB 369 allows any retiree reemployed to teach in an adult education or literacy program administered through a K-12 school to receive a benefit during reemployment and that the earnings shall not exceed 25% of his retirement benefit in any fiscal year. If earnings exceed this amount, such person's retirement benefit will be reduced by the amount in excess of the 25%. The House passed the conference committee report by a vote of 93-0 on June 23, 2011, which rejected costly amendments and added a provision that the Act would take effect upon the enactment of Senate Bill 6. **A "yes" vote on the House conference committee report supported the LAE position.** The Senate passed the conference committee report by a vote of 36-0 on June 23, 2011. **A "yes" vote on the Senate conference committee report supported the LAE position. SB 6 was ultimately vetoed by Governor Jindal on July 1, 2011, therefore, HB 369 will not take effect.**

HB 417: LAE supported passage of HB 417. HB 417 adds to the definition of "retired teacher," and therefore to the list of reemployed retirees who may receive a benefit during reemployment. Under the provisions of HB 417, retirees reemployed as substitute K through 12 classroom teacher are added to the definition of "retired teacher". HB 417 further provides that the earnings of any such substitute teacher shall not exceed 25% of his retirement benefit in any fiscal year. If earnings exceed this amount, such person's retirement benefit will be reduced by the amount in excess of the 25%. The House passed the conference committee report by a vote of 94-0 on June 23, 2011, which rejected costly amendments and added a provision that the Act would take effect upon the enactment of Senate Bill 6. **A "yes" vote on the conference committee report supported the LAE position.** The Senate passed the conference committee report by a vote of 36-0 on June 23, 2011. **A "yes" vote on the Senate conference committee report supported the LAE position. SB 6 was ultimately vetoed by Governor Jindal on July 1, 2011, therefore, HB 417 will not take effect.**

HB 530: LAE opposed passage of HB 530. HB 530 in its original intent proposed changing from a three-year to a five-year the Final Average Compensation (FAC) and increasing employee contributions by a maximum of 3% for state employees, higher education employees and state police. HB 530 was amended on the House floor to remove provisions requiring an increase in employee contributions for members of LASERS and members of TRSL employed in higher education, however, the bill retained the provision to change the FAC from a three-year to a five year. The House passed HB 530 by a vote of 76-20 on June 6, 2011. **A "no" vote on the final passage of HB 530 supported the LAE position.** HB 530 died in the Senate Retirement Committee when it was involuntarily by a vote of 4-2.

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HB 591: LAE supported passage of HB 591. HB 591 proposed to renew four cents of the 36-cent state sales tax on a pack of cigarettes. The renewal would generate 12 million dollars per year, to be deposited into the state general fund, and be available exclusively for the support of expenditures for the direct provision of health care services which are eligible for a match of federal funds. **HB 591** passed the full house and senate and was sent to the governor where it was vetoed. The House then made an attempt to override the veto, but the attempt failed by a vote of 58-44. After a failed attempt to override the Governor's veto of the cigarette tax renewal in the House of Representatives, Representative Harold Ritchie successfully added the tax renewal onto the TOPS legislation (SB 53), thus making the cigarette tax veto proof. SB 53, a constitutional amendment, must be approved by voters on October 22, 2011. Proceeds from the extension of the cigarette tax will go to the state's Health Excellence Fund for health-care programs and services. **A "yes" vote in the House to override Governor Jindal's veto of HB 591 supported the LAE position.**

HB 621: LAE opposed passage of HB 621. HB 621 authorized a credit against any La. income or corporation franchise tax for donations a taxpayer makes during a taxable year to a school tuition organization, which provides scholarships or grants to qualified students to attend a qualified school. The amount of the credit shall be equal to the actual amount of the taxpayer's donation. Proposed law requires that in order for a taxpayer's donation to qualify for the tax credit, the donation shall be used by the school tuition organization to provide scholarships for tuition. HB 621 is an elaborate school voucher scheme that diverts needed general fund revenues away from public schools through tax credits to individuals, and corporations that donate to an entity established as a "school tuition organization." The House failed to pass HB 621 on reconsideration by a vote of 51-40 on June 7, 2011. **A "no" vote on House reconsideration and final passage of HB 621 supported the LAE position.**

SB 6: LAE supported passage of SB 6. SB 6 required an employing agency that terminates its participation in TRSL to pay its proportionate share of the unfunded accrued liability, protects employers that remain in the system from having to pick up the cost of those employers that terminate participation, and provides fairness and equity by treating all employers in exactly the same manner. The House passed SB 6 by a vote of 55-29 on June 14, 2011. **A "yes" vote on House reconsideration and final passage of SB 6 supported the LAE position.** The Senate passed SB 6 by a vote of 38-0 on June 1, 2011. **A "yes" vote on Senate final passage of SB 6 supported the LAE position.** Ultimately, SB 6 was vetoed by Governor Bobby Jindal on July 1, 2011. LAE disagrees with Governor Bobby Jindal's reasons for vetoing SB 6. His position protects employing agency from paying their proportionate share of unfunded accrued liability, and unfairly spreads the burden of these costs among other school districts in the state. SB 6 was also tied to three other "retire-rehire" bills (HB 150, HB 369 and HB 417) becoming effective upon the enactment of SB 6. The "retire-rehire" bills did not become effective.

SB 67: LAE supported passage of SB 67 as the bill was amended through the legislative process. SB 67 changed the application of present law for grade levels of students in kindergarten through grade five. Changes included additional disciplinary measures that must be taken by the principal before expulsion of the student and reduced penalty for uniform related violations or habitual tardiness or absence. As SB 67 moved through

the legislative process, LAE lobbied to clarify the definition of willful disobedience: remove the prohibition of out-of-school suspensions for pupils in grades 6-12 for habitual tardiness or absenteeism, or for school uniform violations; to remove state board (BESE) control; and adoption of guidelines for school suspensions and that proposed disciplinary measures only apply to pupils in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. The Senate passed SB 67 by a vote of 25-10 on June 2, 2011. **A "yes" vote on Senate final passage of SB 67 supported the LAE position.** The House passed SB 67 by a vote of 64-29 on June 20, 2011. **A "yes" vote on House final passage of SB 67 supported the LAE position. SB 67 was vetoed by Governor Jindal on July 1, 2011.**

SB 13: LAE opposed passage of SB 13. Current law authorizes a deduction from taxable income equal to 50% of "tuition and fees" paid by a taxpayer for a dependent child to a nonpublic elementary or secondary school or to any public elementary or secondary laboratory school which is operated by a public college or university. The deduction is limited to \$5,000 per child. Proposed law removes the 50% cap, making the deduction equal to the full amount paid by such taxpayers up to \$5,000 per child. It is estimated that SB 13 will ultimately reduce general fund revenues by an additional 5.8 million dollars per year, thereby reducing general funds available to public education. The Senate passed SB 13 by a vote of 25-10 on May 18, 2011. **A "no" vote on Senate final passage of SB 13 supported the LAE position.** The House passed SB 13 by a vote of 80-14 on June 14, 2011. **A "no" vote on the final passage of SB 13 supported the LAE position. SB 13 was signed by Governor Jindal on June 24, 2011 and became Act 121.**

SB 53: LAE supported passage of SB 53. SB 53 is a Constitutional Amendment to provide that once the balance in the Millennium Trust reaches \$1.38 billion, 100% of the annual Tobacco Settlement Proceeds shall be dedicated to the TOPS Program. The amendment would also dedicate certain tobacco proceeds to the Health Excellence Fund. The bill will increase the amount of resources available for appropriation from the TOPS Fund by directing tobacco settlement receipts directly to the TOPS Fund. HB1 does not anticipate these additional tobacco settlement resources for the TOPS program, which is currently funded in FY12 with \$15.9 million from the TOPS fund, \$92.3 million from the Overcollections Fund, and \$46.2 million from the state general fund. Assuming this constitutional amendment is adopted in October 2011, the TOPS Fund will have roughly \$80 million more available to it in FY12 (settlement proceeds received in April FY11 and in April FY12). Adjustments to the FY12 budget can be made after adoption through the BA7 process or a supplemental appropriation bill. In subsequent years, roughly half this amount (\$40 million, a single year of settlement proceeds) will be redirected to TOPS each year, allowing reductions in other means-of-finance support at that time. After a failed attempt to override the Governor's veto of the cigarette tax renewal in the House, Representative Harold Ritchie was successful in amending the tax renewal onto the TOPS legislation (SB 53), thus making the cigarette tax veto proof. Proceeds from the extension of the cigarette tax will go to the state's Health Excellence Fund for health-care programs and services. SB 53, a constitutional amendment, must be approved by voters on October 22, 2011. The House passed the SB 53 committee conference report by a vote of 99-4 on June 23, 2011. **A "yes" vote supported the LAE position.** The Senate passed the SB 53 committee conference report by a vote of 38-0 on June 23, 2011. **A "yes" vote supported the LAE position.**

Many of the issues that impact public education and educational employees are decided in the halls of government. Therefore, it is critical that the Louisiana Association of Educators advocate for its members and play an active role in protecting the institution of public education. The public education advocacy process involves the LAE taking positions on legislation, communicating those positions to elected officials and then holding those officials accountable.

This report card is one of the key factors used in making judgments on LAE campaign support, endorsements or contributions from the LAE Fund for Children and Public Education — LAE's Political Action Committee (PAC). Issues on which members of the Louisiana Legislature are rated reflect LAE's legislative priorities as determined by the LAE Legislative Program and approved by the LAE Representative Assembly, LAE's strategic goals, issues identified at the beginning of each legislative session, and the issues included in the legislative candidate questionnaire.

The LAE Legislative Report Card measures members of the Louisiana Legislature based on overall support for public education and educators, with each member receiving a letter grade of A, B, C, D or F. Letter grades are based primarily on their voting records on selected votes and on five additional criteria.

A Representative or Senator's grade is calculated as follows:

Every member of the Louisiana Legislature that supports LAE's position on key votes is calculated as a percentage, called the "vote score." For example, a Senator who voted to support LAE's position in 5 of 10 key votes would earn a vote score of 50 percent. LAE Government Relations staff also scores each member of the Legislature annually on five additional criteria, which are explained in detail below:

- Bill co-sponsorships
- Back home access and education advocacy
- Behind the scenes advocacy
- Votes in key Legislative committees
- Accessibility to LAE in Baton Rouge

Points earned or lost by a member of the Legislature on the criteria listed above are added to, or subtracted from, that lawmaker's vote score in order to calculate a total score.

Each member's total score is then converted to a letter grade of A, B, C, D or F, according to the following scale:

A = 90 and above B = 75 and above C = 60 and above D = 50 and above F = 49 and below