

# 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

# RECAP

## **NOTABLE LABI-SUPPORTED MEASURES THAT REACHED THE GOVERNOR'S DESK**

### **STRENGTHENING CRADLE-TO-CAREER PATHWAYS**

**HB 168 by Rep. Barbara Freiberg** creates a transitional program for select female parolees to successfully return to their communities while preparing for long-term self-sufficiency.

**HB 268 by Rep. Kim Carver** strengthens career readiness standards for grades 6–8 and requires schools to introduce K–5 students to career, technical and academic fields through age-appropriate activities.

**HB 316 by Rep. John Wyble** broadens the instructor literacy training program to include grades 4-8.

**HB 325 by Rep. Ken Brass** expands TOPS-Tech eligibility to include students who earn early college credit in high school through dual enrollment courses or other approved workforce and academic avenues.

**HB 549 by Rep. Stephanie Berault** creates the Bayou Growth Opportunity Workforce Program (BayouWorks), a competitive, employer-driven training initiative designed to help Louisiana businesses quickly build the skilled talent pipeline required to sustain growth and capitalize on new economic opportunities.

**HB 649 by Rep. Brass** creates a statewide application process for students to access dual enrollment programs.

**HB 680 by Rep. Wyble** provides for implementation of the "one door" policies enacted last year as they relate to federal waivers under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

**HB 807 by Rep. Brass** establishes the Workforce Instructor Capacity Investment Program within Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges to expand instructional capacity for high-wage, high-demand workforce programs.

**HB 951 by Rep. Dennis Bamburg** creates the Office of Business Workforce Solutions within Louisiana Works to oversee and coordinate the state's workforce development system, ensuring programs and funding are aligned with employer and labor market needs while integrating training initiatives across state agencies and promoting collaboration statewide.

**HB 992 by Rep. Freiberg** extends existing student identification practices from K-12 to early childhood, creating continuity in how children's progress is tracked.

**SB 305 by Sen. Rick Edmonds** requires the creation of a publicly accessible statewide career alignment dashboard that connects educational programs with related career pathways and workforce opportunities.

**SB 376 by Sen. Beth Mizell** establishes the Learn and Earn Act, authorizing local school boards to create, operate or partner with employers on career practicum programs that expand hands-on work-based learning opportunities.

**SB 522 by Sen. Edmonds** authorizes approval of charter schools specializing in vocational and technical education to better align training pathways with high-demand, high-wage workforce needs.



## **EXPANDING LOUISIANA'S ENERGY DOMINANCE**

**HB 595 by Rep. Jacob Landry** strengthens the state's ability to responsibly develop natural resource projects by reinforcing consistent statewide permitting standards and limiting duplicative local hurdles.

**HB 804 by Rep. Brett Geymann** creates the Louisiana Energy Protection Act to safeguard the state's energy producers and users from predatory climate change litigation.

## **SUPPORTING INJURED WORKERS' RECOVERY AND RETURN TO WORK**

**HB 456 by Rep. Emily Chenevert** corrects an imbalance within Louisiana's workers' compensation system by giving employers the same ability as employees to file disputes, investigate claims and seek judicial review—while continuing to pay benefits. This commonsense reform promotes fairness, transparency and better-informed decision-making for all parties.

**SB 408 by Sen. Brach Myers** updates and revises Louisiana's outdated, unbalanced workers' compensation medical fee schedule and reins in excessive litigation.

## ***STALLED MEASURES***

**HB 437 by Rep. Michael Melerine** would have prohibited outcome-based compensation for expert witnesses in litigation while continuing to allow standard payment for their time and professional expertise. The bill would also have strengthened judicial gatekeeping by requiring judges to evaluate an expert's reliability and neutrality before testimony reaches a jury, aligning Louisiana more closely with widely adopted standards.

**HB 526 by Rep. Kellee Dickerson** would have restored greater balance to Louisiana's civil justice system by preserving full compensation for tangible losses while placing reasonable guardrails on highly subjective general damages that contribute to unpredictable verdicts and rising commercial insurance costs.

**HB 1089 by Rep. Dennis Bamberg** would have created CARE Accounts to ensure future medical awards are used specifically for legitimate long-term medical care needs, helping protect injured individuals through the duration of their lifetime.

