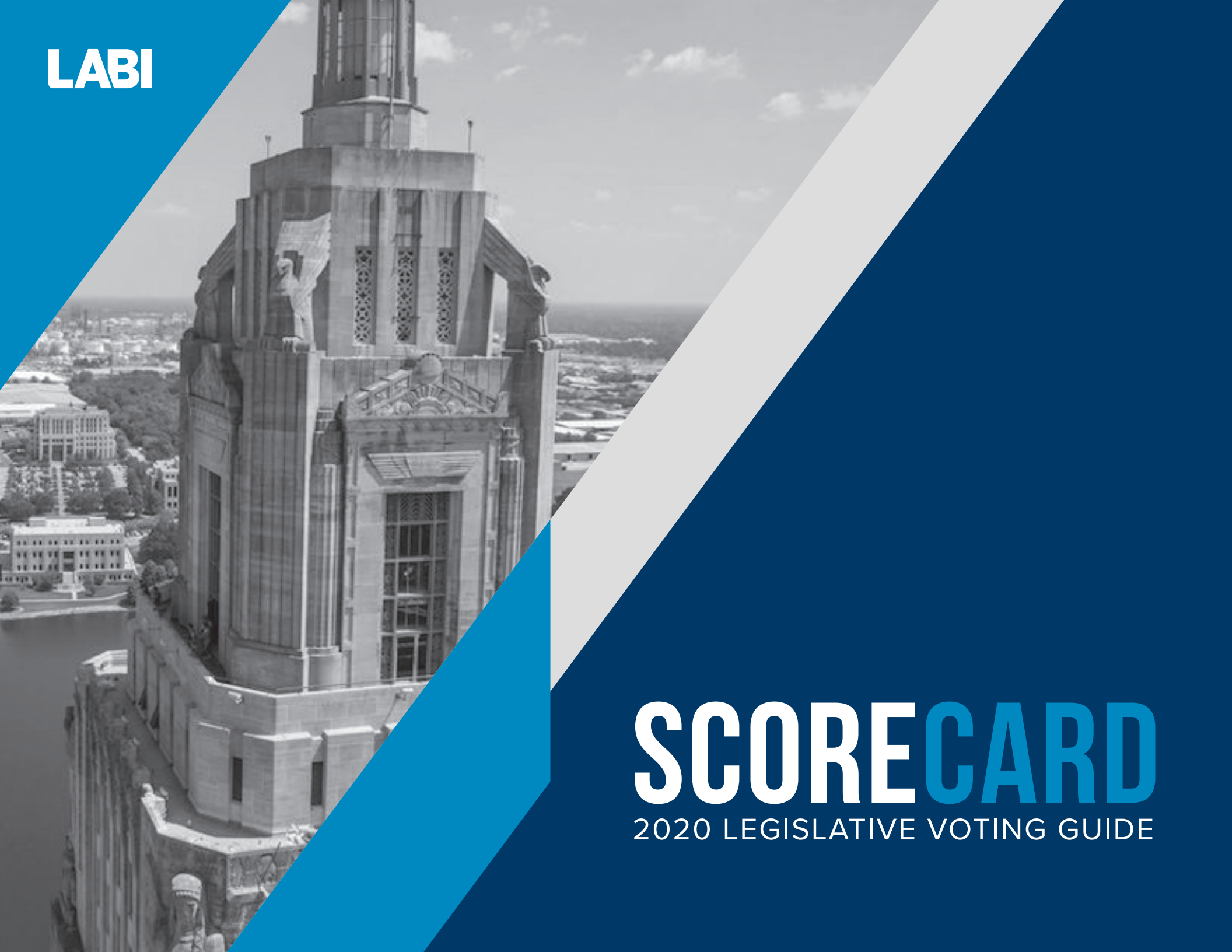


LABI



SCORECARD

2020 LEGISLATIVE VOTING GUIDE



BOLD IDEAS → → →
INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

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For the Louisiana Legislature, and for those of us who advocate before it, 2020 was certainly a year that challenged any playbook on public policy. Not only was this one of the largest freshman classes our lawmaking body has seen, with 52 first-time legislators navigating new territory; not only did the House Speaker and Senate President for the first time in modern times forge a strong relationship that bridged a traditionally deep divide; but numerous curve-balls in the way of a novel coronavirus changed the game dramatically.

For the Legislature itself, it meant suspending action for weeks while the state “flattened the curve.” It meant empty halls usually packed with busloads of students on field trips, tourists and other interested onlookers, temperature checks, masks, plexiglass between seats on the House and Senate floors, and sanitized everything... from door handles to hands to microphones. It meant streamlining legislative priorities and doing without, it meant accepting unfinished business, for now. It meant the first of what will likely be more special sessions to finish what business they could.

And it meant a shattered economy, bringing with it the budget challenges and uncertainty that creates.

But this new Legislature met the challenge in an encouraging way. And as LABI undertook our annual routine of scoring their actions on behalf of Louisiana’s business community, its job-creators and economic opportunity, we were encouraged by the innovative problem-solving, tenacious resolve and bipartisan temperament we saw.

In reconvening the regular session for the remainder of May and a special session during the month of June, the Legislature allowed itself the opportunity to address the adverse economic impacts arising from efforts to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of Louisiana’s small

businesses, some 2,000 of them members of LABI, took a significant financial hit from the closure or limited operation imposed by the Governor’s stay-at-home order. Add to this the reluctance of customers to shop or dine at their favorite local venues once the order was scaled back in mid-May, and the economic headwinds small employers faced became monumental.

Small business owners typically have little in reserves to cover a month-long cessation of their businesses, let alone the more extended period some are having to endure. Most in the Legislature understood that many of these weakened job providers were going to have trouble keeping their doors open and their workers employed. There would be cash-flow issues thwarting their ability to meet their operating expenses and payrolls. There would also be new costs of PPE, safety practices and in general, doing business associated with the COVID-19 threat and their efforts to keep their employees and customers safe from infection.

The Legislature also recognized that without a reinvigorated private sector, already diminished public-sector revenues – state and local – would only decline further. Numerous businesses – restaurant, lodging and retail establishments in particular – have now closed their doors temporarily or permanently, adding their employees to the unemployment rolls with poor prospects for returning to work in the near term. The loss of the tax revenue generated from these businesses and their workers will only further threaten the budgetary picture forming for state and local governments.

The House and Senate leadership took steps to head off this outcome. They formed the Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force comprised of private sector business leaders from across the state to formulate recommendations for economic relief and recovery. The task force released its first report on May 8 and followed





up with a second report on June 4 with the intent that some of these recommendations become bills designed to help struggling businesses across Louisiana.

The measures ultimately passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor seek to keep small businesses solvent. On the legal front, bills were filed to provide limited liability protection for governments, businesses, and manufacturers of face masks and hand sanitizer, all of whom are keeping our economy and supply lines going. Legislation was filed to finally reform Louisiana's broken legal system to lower costs on businesses and households, most notably through lower auto insurance rates.

On the financial front, bills were filed to lessen the franchise tax burden on small businesses and to provide immediate cash-flow assistance by allowing them to retain a fraction more in vendor's compensation for sales taxes they collect for the state. Other bills will provide a rebate to small restaurants and retailers to encourage their expansion into low-income, economically distressed areas of the state known as Enterprise Zones in order to help those communities recover and grow. Unfortunately, the bills were watered down as they worked their way through the legislative process.

While the amount of relief the Legislature finally found acceptable wound up being less than what is needed, it will help to make a difference for some employers and their workers. As one restaurant owner explained during a committee hearing, it will help to pay a utility bill for the month or make possible a raise to entice an employee



back to work. In the meantime, we must look ahead to the fiscal session of 2021 and prepare to enact true tax reform to help reinvigorate Louisiana's ailing economy and make us more competitive with our neighboring states that have historically fared much better than us.

But back to the LABI Scorecard. Though these back-to-back sessions saw abbreviated agendas and a limited focus, they left us with many scorable actions directly affecting our members and Louisiana's business community. As is the norm with this process, our scores are based on House and Senate floor votes and procedural moves all members of the relative body have opportunity to vote on. But absent in the scores are the poignant, hard-fought battles in committee – which this year in particular, were significant.

To our LABI members, to Louisiana's business community and to the general public – please take the time to examine this document. As always, it's a reckoning of which legislators support pro-business legislation, but it's also a thorough guide to a very new, very different, and very inspiring body of lawmakers.

On behalf of our 2,200 member businesses around the state and the faithful support of our Board of Directors and Issue Councils members, we hope you enjoy this report and look forward to continuing the fight to help Louisiana reach its maximum potential.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom O'Neal".

TOM O'NEAL
LABI 2020 BOARD CHAIRMAN

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Waguespack".

STEPHEN WAGUESPACK
PRESIDENT & CEO, LABI



"I really do believe, members, that once we get the competition cranking up again, I think this is going to take care of itself. And you know, competition always favors the consumer because prices will go down."

-SEN. KIRK TALBOT (R-RIVER RIDGE) ON SB 418 FROM THE REGULAR SESSION

2020 LABI VOTES FOR JOBS: **SENATE**

REGULAR SESSION

SB 189-ADOPT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT SEN. BODI WHITE (R-CENTRAL)

This bill directs \$300 million of Louisiana's CARES Act allocation from the federal government into a fund administered by the Louisiana Department of Treasury to provide relief grants to small businesses in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. The remaining \$511 million will be used to reimburse municipalities for virus-related expenses. The Senate voted to adopt the conference committee report by a vote of 28-10. **A vote to ADOPT was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION

SB 395 SEN. HEATHER CLOUD (R-TURKEY CREEK)

This bill sought to rein in attorney advertising by declaring false or misleading ads in which a plaintiff claims a windfall but does not disclose the amount deducted for attorney fees and court costs. It passed by a vote of 28-6. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION

SB 418 SEN. KIRK TALBOT (R-RIVER RIDGE)

This bill would have enacted the Omnibus Premium Reduction Act of 2020 and sought to lower car insurance rates through common-sense reforms to Louisiana's legal system. It would have reduced the jury trial threshold to \$5,000 for tort actions, limited direct action against an insurer, reformed the collateral source rule, extended the prescription period to two years for auto accidents, repealed the seat belt gag rule and required a mandatory 10 percent rate reduction for both commercial and personal auto insurance. It passed by a vote of 29-8. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION

SB 435 SEN. MARK ABRAHAM (R-LAKE CHARLES)

This bill provides limited liability protection for COVID-19 exposure to individuals and entities, including the state or local governments, that follow government standards and guidance during a state of emergency. It passed by a vote of 34-0. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION

SB 461 SEN. MIKE REESE (R-LEESVILLE)

This bill will prevent Louisiana employers from having to pay over half a billion dollars in unemployment compensation (UC) taxes next year. SB 461 will allow the state's UC trust fund to absorb the shock of this surge in benefits, resulting in a gradual recoupment of the cost over years rather than the single-year tax collection that would have taken place under current law. It passed by a vote of 37-0. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION

SB 491 SEN. SHARON HEWITT (R-SLIDELL)

This bill limits liability for businesses and individuals providing relief or recovery equipment or services during the COVID-19 emergency. Without this bill, businesses and individuals producing, providing, distributing or donating PPE in accordance with government standards could be subject to opportunistic litigation. It passed by a vote of 28-6. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

WITHOUT THE ENACTMENT OF SB 461 (ACT 243) IN THE REGULAR SESSION, LOUISIANA EMPLOYERS WOULD HAVE PAID AN ADDITIONAL \$874 MILLION IN UNEMPLOYMENT TAXES NEXT YEAR.



"I want to thank Senator Talbot because let me tell you, we pay too much money in insurance in this state. And it's absolutely unconscionable and we have to do something about it."

-SEN. CLEO FIELDS (D-BATON ROUGE) ON THE FLOOR FOR SB 418

2020 LABI VOTES FOR JOBS: **SENATE**

REGULAR SESSION

SB 508

SEN. PATRICK MCMATH (R-COVINGTON)

This bill limits liability for Louisiana restaurants that comply with government standards and guidance regarding COVID-19. The bill passed by a vote of 31-3. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION

HB 313

REP. THOMAS PRESSLY (R-SHREVEPORT)

The bill would have clarified the traditional principles of liability protections for business organizations by legislatively repealing the single business enterprise theory of liability and restricting the ability of courts to impose liability on business organizations based on common business practices conducted by groups of related business entities. It passed by a vote of 26-8. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION

HB 597

REP. RICHARD NELSON (R-MANDEVILLE)

This bill would have removed a judicially created legal presumption that the lack of an injury, illness or condition prior to an accident and the subsequent allegation of an injury, illness or condition after an accident indicates causation of the injury, illness or condition. It passed by a vote of 22-13. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION

HB 826

REP. THOMAS PRESSLY (R-SHREVEPORT)

This bill limits liability for businesses and individuals providing relief or recovery equipment or services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Without this bill, businesses and individuals producing, providing, distributing or donating PPE in accordance with government standards could be subject to opportunistic litigation. The bill passed by a vote of 28-7. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION

HB 846

REP. MARK WRIGHT (R-COVINGTON)

This bill would have established a Payroll Incentive Program rebate for COVID-19-impacted businesses. It passed by a vote of 30-6. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION

HCR 66

REP. STUART BISHOP (R-LAFAYETTE)

This resolution suspends the franchise tax for small businesses for one year. It will help Louisiana keep important employers and the jobs they provide, which is critical to maintaining the state and local government revenue base. It passed by a vote of 27-8. **A vote FOR the resolution was a vote WITH LABI.**

SPECIAL SESSION

SB 6

SEN. BRET ALLAIN (R-FRANKLIN)

This bill suspends the state franchise tax for a one-year period ending June 30, 2021 for small corporations with taxable capital of one million dollars or less. It passed by a vote of 31-0. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

**LOUISIANA HAD AN "F" GRADE ON THE
INSURANCE REGULATION REPORT CARD
ISSUED BY R STREET POLICY IN 2019.**



“Members, this is a historic accomplishment that we have all done together. And as Senator Johns pointed out, some folks have been working on this for 25 years. This is actually going to move the needle.”

-SEN. SHARON HEWITT (R-SLIDELL) ON THE PASSAGE OF SPEAKER SCHEXNAYDER’S HB 57

2020 LABI VOTES FOR JOBS: **SENATE**

SPECIAL SESSION

SB 9

SEN. SHARON HEWITT (R-SLIDELL)

This bill allows a judge or jury to decide if evidence of seat belt usage should be introduced in civil trials related to injuries from motor vehicle accidents, repealing the “gag rule” that currently bans this evidence from courtrooms. It passed by a vote of 24-10. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

SPECIAL SESSION

HB 11-ADOPT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
REP. JOHN STEFANSKI (R-CROWLEY)

This bill raises the vendor’s compensation rate from 0.935 to 1.05 percent for restaurants, retailers and other businesses that collect state sales taxes. The Senate adopted the conference committee report by a vote of 34-4. **A vote to ADOPT was a vote WITH LABI.**

SPECIAL SESSION

HB 13

REP. MARK WRIGHT (R-COVINGTON)

This bill restores the ability for restaurant, lodging and retail establishments with 50 or fewer employees to participate in the Enterprise Zone incentive program until 2023. It passed by a vote of 26-12. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

SPECIAL SESSION

HB 44

REP. RAY GAROFALO (R-CHALMETTE)

This bill would have enacted the Omnibus Premium Reduction Act of 2020 and sought to lower car insurance rates through common-sense reforms to Louisiana’s legal system. It would have reduced the jury trial threshold to \$5,000 for tort actions, limited direct action against an insurer, reformed the collateral source rule, extended the prescription period to two years for auto accidents, repealed the seat belt gag rule and required a mandatory 10 percent rate reduction for both commercial and personal auto insurance. It passed by a vote of 27-9. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

SPECIAL SESSION

HB 57-CONCUR IN SENATE AMENDMENTS
SPEAKER CLAY SCHEXNAYDER (R-GONZALES)

This bill enacts the Civil Justice Reform Act of 2020. It lowers the jury trial threshold to \$10,000, repeals the seat belt gag rule, bars plaintiffs from introducing evidence of a defendant’s auto insurance policy at trial except in certain very limited circumstances, limits a judge from discussing insurance coverage except in jury instructions, and addresses collateral source, limiting medical damages to the amount actually paid by a plaintiff. After a jury awards the verdict, HB 57 allows the judge to look at the difference between the amount billed for medical care and the amount paid by the plaintiff and to award up to 40 percent of the difference to the plaintiff. It passed by a vote of 35-4. **A vote to CONCUR was a vote WITH**

SPECIAL SESSION

HB 66

REP. RICHARD NELSON (R-MANDEVILLE)

This bill would have enacted the Citizens’ Premium Reduction Act, which would prevent a plaintiff found to be over 50 percent at fault for his injuries from recovering damages for those injuries, eliminate the jury trial threshold for tort cases and lower the jury trial threshold to \$35,000 for non-tort cases, address the direct action statute, limit the recovery of medical damages to those actually paid, prohibit the use of gender in insurance rate-setting criteria for a driver over the age of 25, and require a sunset of the bill if there isn’t a 15 percent rate reduction by 2023. The bill passed by a vote 35-3. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

BEFORE THE PASSAGE OF HB 57, LOUISIANA HAD THE HIGHEST JURY TRIAL THRESHOLD IN THE NATION AT \$50,000. LOUISIANA NOW HAS THE SECOND-HIGHEST JURY TRIAL THRESHOLD IN THE NATION AT \$10,000. 36 STATES HAVE NO THRESHOLD AT ALL.



"Our people want us to take action, and we must take action."
 -REP. LARRY FRIEMAN (R-ABITA SPRINGS) ON THE NEED FOR LEGAL REFORM

2020 LABI VOTES FOR JOBS: HOUSE

REGULAR SESSION
SB 189-ADOPT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
 SEN. BODI WHITE (R-CENTRAL)

This bill directs \$300 million of Louisiana's CARES Act allocation from the federal government into a fund administered by the Louisiana Department of Treasury to provide relief grants to small businesses in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. The remaining \$511 million will be used to reimburse municipalities for virus-related expenses. The House voted to adopt the conference committee report by a vote of 62-39. **A vote to ADOPT was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION
SB 395
 SEN. HEATHER CLOUD (R-TURKEY CREEK)

This bill sought to rein in attorney advertising by declaring false or misleading ads in which a plaintiff claims a windfall but does not disclose the amount deducted for attorney fees and court costs. It passed by a vote of 78-23. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION
SB 418
 SEN. KIRK TALBOT (R-RIVER RIDGE)

This bill would have enacted the Omnibus Premium Reduction Act of 2020 and sought to lower car insurance rates through common-sense reforms to Louisiana's legal system. It would have reduced the jury trial threshold to \$5,000 for tort actions, limited direct action against an insurer, reformed the collateral source rule, extended the prescription period to two years for auto accidents, repealed the seat belt gag rule and required a mandatory 10 percent rate reduction for both commercial and personal auto insurance. It passed by a vote of 72-28. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION
SB 435
 SEN. MARK ABRAHAM (R-LAKE CHARLES)

This bill provides limited liability protection for COVID-19 exposure to individuals and entities, including the state or local governments, that follow government standards and guidance during a state of emergency. It passed by a vote of 97-0. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION
SB 461
 SEN. MIKE REESE (R-LEESVILLE)

This bill will prevent Louisiana employers from having to pay over half a billion dollars in unemployment compensation (UC) taxes next year. SB 461 will allow the state's UC trust fund to absorb the shock of this surge in benefits, resulting in a gradual recoupment of the cost over years rather than the single-year tax collection that would have taken place under current law. It passed by a vote of 98-0. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

SPECIAL SESSION
SB 491
 SEN. SHARON HEWITT (R-SLIDELL)

This bill limits liability for businesses and individuals providing relief or recovery equipment or services during the COVID-19 emergency. Without this bill, businesses and individuals producing, providing, distributing or donating PPE in accordance with government standards could be subject to opportunistic litigation. It passed by a vote of 99-0. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

DID YOU KNOW?

LOUISIANA HAS THE SECOND-WORST STATE LEGAL CLIMATE IN THE 2019 LAWSUIT CLIMATE SURVEY BY THE U.S. CHAMBER'S INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL REFORM.



"I think at the end of the day, we really need to think about the people of Louisiana, because those are the ones who are going to suffer whether we do nothing, and those are the ones we have to put first."

-REP. RICHARD NELSON (R-MANDEVILLE) CLOSING ON HB 66

2020 LABI VOTES FOR JOBS: HOUSE

REGULAR SESSION

SB 508

SEN. PATRICK MCMATH (R-COVINGTON)

This bill limits liability for Louisiana restaurants that comply with government standards and guidance regarding COVID-19. The bill passed by a vote of 94-0. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION

HB 313

REP. THOMAS PRESSLY (R-SHREVEPORT)

The bill would have clarified the traditional principles of liability protections for business organizations by legislatively repealing the single business enterprise theory of liability and restricting the ability of courts to impose liability on business organizations based on common business practices conducted by groups of related business entities. It passed by a vote of 92-1. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION

HB 597

REP. RICHARD NELSON (R-MANDEVILLE)

This bill would have removed a judicially created legal presumption that the lack of an injury, illness or condition prior to an accident and the subsequent allegation of an injury, illness or condition after an accident indicates causation of the injury, illness or condition. It passed by a vote of 61-39. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION

HB 826

REP. THOMAS PRESSLY (R-SHREVEPORT)

This bill limits liability for businesses and individuals providing relief or recovery equipment or services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Without this bill, businesses and individuals producing, providing, distributing or donating PPE in accordance with government standards could be subject to opportunistic litigation. The bill passed by a vote of 90-0. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION

HB 846

REP. MARK WRIGHT (R-COVINGTON)

This bill would have established a Payroll Incentive Program rebate for COVID-19-impacted businesses. It passed by a vote of 97-0. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

REGULAR SESSION

HCR 66

REP. STUART BISHOP (R-LAFAYETTE)

This resolution suspends the franchise tax for small businesses for one year. It will help Louisiana keep important employers and the jobs they provide, which is critical to maintaining the state and local government revenue base. It passed by a vote of 72-24. **A vote FOR the resolution was a vote WITH LABI.**

SPECIAL SESSION

SB 6

SEN. BRET ALLAIN (R-FRANKLIN)

This bill suspends the state franchise tax for a one-year period ending June 30, 2021 for small corporations with taxable capital of one million dollars or less. It passed by a vote of 82-9. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

THE COUNCIL ON STATE TAXATION RANKED LOUISIANA, ALONG WITH COLORADO, AS FOURTH WORST FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION IN 2019, AWARDING BOTH STATES A "D".



“Families are having to balance between funding those basic needs and the cost of their personal auto insurance... I was elected by a majority of my constituents to come to this Legislature to lower their auto insurance. That’s mainly why I was elected.”

-SEN. HEATHER CLOUD (R-TURKEY CREEK) ON HB 66

2020 LABI VOTES FOR JOBS: HOUSE

SPECIAL SESSION

SB 9

SEN. SHARON HEWITT (R-SLIDELL)

This bill allows to permit a judge or jury to decide if evidence of seat belt usage should be introduced in civil trials related to injuries from motor vehicle accidents, repealing the “gag rule” that currently bans this evidence from courtrooms. It passed by a vote of 76-25. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

SPECIAL SESSION

HB 11

REP. JOHN STEFANSKI (R-CROWLEY)

This bill raises vendor’s compensation rate from 0.935 to 1.05 percent for restaurants, retailers and other businesses that collect state sales taxes. It passed by a vote of 88-3. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

SPECIAL SESSION

HB 13

REP. MARK WRIGHT (R-COVINGTON)

This bill restores the ability for restaurant, lodging and retail establishments with 50 or fewer employees to participate in the Enterprise Zone incentive program until 2023. It passed by a vote of 62-32. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

SPECIAL SESSION

HB 44

REP. RAY GAROFALO (R-CHALMETTE)

This bill would have enacted the Omnibus Premium Reduction Act of 2020 and sought to lower car insurance rates through common-sense reforms to Louisiana’s legal system. It would have reduced the jury trial threshold to \$5,000 for tort actions, limited direct action against an insurer, reformed the collateral source rule, extended the prescription period to two years for auto accidents, repealed the seat belt gag rule and required a mandatory 10 percent rate reduction for both commercial and personal auto insurance. It passed by a vote of 74-25. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

SPECIAL SESSION

HB 57-ADOPT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

SPEAKER CLAY SCHEXNAYDER (R-GONZALES)

This bill enacts the Civil Justice Reform Act of 2020. It lowers the jury trial threshold to \$10,000, repeals the seat belt gag rule, bars plaintiffs from introducing evidence of a defendant’s auto insurance policy at trial except in certain very limited circumstances, limits a judge from discussing insurance coverage except in jury instructions, addresses collateral source, limiting medical damages to the amount actually paid by a plaintiff. After a jury awards the verdict, HB 57 allows the judge to look at the difference between the amount billed for medical care and the amount paid by the plaintiff and to award up to 40 percent of the difference to the plaintiff. It passed by a vote of 86-15. **A vote to ADOPT was a vote WITH LABI.**

SPECIAL SESSION

HB 66

REP. RICHARD NELSON (R-MANDEVILLE)

This bill would have enacted the Citizens’ Premium Reduction Act, which would prevent a plaintiff found to be over 50 percent at fault for his injuries from recovering damages for those injuries, eliminate the jury trial threshold for tort cases and lower the jury trial threshold to \$35,000 for non-tort cases, address the direct action statute, limit the recovery of medical damages to those actually paid, prohibit the use of gender in insurance rate-setting criteria for a driver over the age of 25, and require a sunset of the bill if there isn’t a 15 percent rate reduction by 2023. The bill passed by a vote 88-8. **A vote FOR the bill was a vote WITH LABI.**

DID YOU KNOW?

FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW, LOUISIANA HAS THE SECOND HIGHEST AUTO INSURANCE RATES IN THE COUNTRY, AVERAGING \$2,298 ANNUALLY – \$841 OR 58% MORE THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF \$1,457.

A group of five professionals in a meeting. A man in a light-colored suit is speaking to a man in a dark suit who is holding a document. A woman in a dark suit is looking at a man in a dark suit who is holding a smartphone. A woman in a light-colored top is sitting in the foreground, looking towards the group. The background shows a room with a large mirror and a desk.

**POLICY EXPERTISE
IN ACTION**

ISSUE: CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM

In both the regular session and the first extraordinary session of 2020, LABI's top priority was passing meaningful legislation that would improve Louisiana's legal climate and help rebuild our insurance markets. The organization supported a number of instruments that would accomplish those goals, through measures such as lowering the jury trial threshold, repealing the seat belt gag rule, reforming collateral source, and other provisions that would bring Louisiana's legal system more in line with the rest of the country.

With the COVID-19 pandemic thrusting Louisiana into the middle of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, it was critical to end the state's "tort tax" and return those lost dollars to the pockets of hardworking families and job creators. On average, Louisiana households pay \$4,000 a year in costs associated with the state's legal climate, including everything from insurance rates driven high by frivolous lawsuits to the increased prices for goods such as food and medicine which are transported by commercial trucks.

LABI supported two critical civil justice reform bills that made their way to the Governor's desk, working with a broad, bipartisan coalition in both chambers and a wide variety of stakeholders. At the conclusion of the special session, the Civil Justice Reform Act was signed into law. It lowers the jury trial threshold from \$50,000 to \$10,000, makes seat belt usage admissible in court, limits an attorney's ability to mention a defendant's insurance coverage to the jury, and limits medical damages to the amount actually paid by a plaintiff. After the verdict, the judge may award up to 40 percent of the difference

in the amount billed and the amount paid to the plaintiff based on actual out-of-pocket costs.

This landmark legislation is the culmination of decades of work for the organization and a crucial first step for our state's economic recovery. LABI looks forward to working with the Legislature in future sessions to pass additional legal reform measures that will continue to bring our legal climate in line with the rest of the nation and lower auto insurance rates for all Louisiana drivers.

“ I can make some guarantees to you. The first guarantee is that we are the only state with a \$50,000 jury trial threshold, has direct action, a collateral source rule, and a seat belt gag rule. We are the only state. I can guarantee you that. I could also guarantee you that we pay double the national average in car insurance. That's another guarantee. I'll also guarantee you that if we do nothing, and pass no bill concerning tort reform or premium reduction, our constituents will be furious with us. I do not want to go home and face my constituents and tell them I did nothing.

The last guarantee I can make for you is that if we do nothing, we have failed. We are a failure. This session is a failure if we do nothing for reducing premiums. ”

-REP. LARRY FRIEMAN (R-ABITA SPRINGS) ON SB 418



“Many of these businesses, in both your district and mine, are literally on the brink of going out of business.”

-SENATE PRESIDENT PAGE CORTEZ (R-LAFAYETTE) IN THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

ISSUE: **COVID-19 RELIEF**

During this historic time, essential businesses across Louisiana have worked overtime to incorporate CDC guidelines and “stay at home” rules into their daily operations, all while taking in a fraction of their normal revenue. We applaud their dedication to safely providing these critical products and services to our communities.

Given the catastrophic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Louisiana’s economy, LABI made an extraordinary push in both the regular and special sessions to provide relief to businesses as they worked to rebuild, ushering in measures to help keep the state’s job creators operational and protect them from frivolous lawsuits and opportunistic litigation.

In the regular session, LABI supported legislation to create a small business relief fund using money the state received from Congress as part of the federal government’s response to the pandemic. The fund is overseen by the Louisiana Department of Treasury and is providing grants of up to \$15,000 to business with less than 50 employees, with \$40 million set aside for woman, veteran and minority-owned businesses.

On the liability front, LABI supported two key bills that will provide limited liability protection for COVID-19 exposure to individuals, businesses, and entities, including state and local governments, that follow government standards and guidance during a state of emergency. Specifically, legislation was passed at LABI’s urging which will protect restaurants that comply with official guidelines from lawsuits. In addition, LABI supported legislation to limit liability for those providing relief or recovery equipment and services during the COVID-19 emergency. All four measures were signed into law by Gov. Edwards.

It is abundantly clear that more legislation will be needed in future sessions to help businesses not only recover in the short-term, but also break down the persistent barriers to business growth that have held Louisiana back for decades. LABI looks forward to working with the Legislature to help bring real relief to our state’s working families and job creators as they work to rebuild our shattered economy.





"It's telling when we have the heads of our two legislative bodies here to testify to show their support for these two bills because that's how important it is for the state of Louisiana."

-REP. JOHN STEFANSKI (R-CROWLEY) ON THE SENATE PRESIDENT AND HOUSE SPEAKER'S REMARKS IN THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

ISSUE: **TAXATION & FINANCE**

With the regular session cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Legislature called itself into a special session immediately after the regular session adjourned, largely to finalize the state budget, but also to consider measures to mitigate the financial fallout from the pandemic. Over the course of the 30-day special session, lawmakers supported an array of bills recommended by the Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force, including measures to help job creators keep their doors open and their workers employed as they attempt to re-engage with their customers.

Several measures were approved in the special session that will help small retailers and restaurants stay afloat in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. In particular, the Legislature passed a bill to raise the vendor's compensation rate from 0.935 percent to 1.05 percent for employers that shut down or restricted their operations to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The modest rate increase finally approved by the Legislature will aid these employees with their cash flow as they fight to recover.

The Legislature also passed a measure allowing retail, restaurant and lodging establishments employing 50 or fewer workers to be eligible for participation

in the Enterprise Zone incentive program. Restoring eligibility for these employers will not only assist their recovery but will help those local economies in Louisiana that are in greatest need of employment opportunities for their citizens.

Additionally, members suspended the state franchise tax for a one-year period ending June 30, 2021 for small corporations with taxable capital of \$1 million or less. Statewide, the projected relief this measure represents to Louisiana small businesses is around \$7.5 million.

LABI also supported legislation that would have utilized the existing Competitive Projects Payroll Incentive Program to provide COVID-19-impacted retail, restaurant and lodging establishments with 50 or fewer employees a rebate for five or more new jobs and new payroll of at least \$40,000 created by the end of 2021. Gov. Edwards vetoed the bill, citing concerns about the potential impact on the state budget and stating that he did not want to incentivize "the creation of minimum wage jobs."

Initially, the members in the House Ways and Means Committee demonstrated an interest in lowering

" In just three weeks, you have a plan put together that I think benefits everybody - it's not a Republican plan, it's not a Democrat plan, it's an everybody plan. It's going to help those small businesses to be able to get back on their feet. "

-HOUSE SPEAKER CLAY SCHEXNAYDER (R-GONZALES) TESTIFYING IN THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

business taxes to re-energize the private sector in the face of an economy struggling under the weight of the continuing COVID-19 crisis. As these bills began to move through the process, this mindset began to shift due to concerns over their fiscal notes. The Legislature finally chose to pass the bills in a manner that minimized their relief value. Whether the limited amount of aid that was ultimately approved will make a meaningful difference remains to be seen.

DID YOU KNOW?

LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI ARE AMONG ONLY 14 STATES WITH A FRANCHISE TAX. IN 2016, MISSISSIPPI BEGAN PHASING OUT THIS TAX WHILE LOUISIANA EXPANDED IT TO MORE BUSINESSES.



“A lot of our workforce has been turned out because of COVID and we want to make sure that they are on their toes and they know where all the resources are and where the funding is so that if we need to do anything to retrain our workforce, we have those resources ready to go.”

-REP. RAY GAROFALO (R-CHALMETTE) IN THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON HCR 12

ISSUE: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

With more than 300,000 Louisiana workers unemployed due to COVID-19 and in anticipation of a longer-term recession, workforce development has never been more critical. While there were few floor votes on workforce measures during the regular and special sessions this year, LABI supported a resolution to urge and request the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council and relevant state agencies to compile information on workforce training funds and programs available to assist the hundreds of thousands of workers currently unemployed due to the COVID-19 crisis to become employable in available jobs.

Another measure introduced required a post-COVID jobs forecast to allow higher education and workforce development stakeholders to align immediate re-training opportunities for workers in the industry sectors that will add jobs over the next year. The time-sensitive need for a new jobs forecast and short-term training opportunities has been discussed and recommended by both the legislative Louisiana Economic Recovery Task Force and the Governor’s Resilient Louisiana Commission Education and Workforce Task Force. Ultimately, the bill was parked in the Senate Labor and Industrial Relations Committee following a commitment from the Secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission to take such steps.



DID YOU KNOW? IN A RECENT SURVEY OF MORE THAN 100 LABI MEMBER COMPANIES, MORE THAN ¼ OF EMPLOYERS GAVE A FAILING GRADE TO THE “GENERAL QUALITY AND OVERALL READINESS” OF WORKERS APPLYING FOR OPEN POSITIONS AT THEIR LOUISIANA SITES. ONLY 40% INDICATED NEW WORKERS ARE PREPARED WITH JUST 5% SAYING THEY ARE “HIGHLY PREPARED”.

ISSUE:

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

“

We are streamlining enforcement actions and putting the state in the driver's seat to assert proper leadership and control over the coastal lawsuits. ”

-SEN. BOB HENSGENS (R-ABBEVILLE)

The spread of COVID-19 has not only impacted households and businesses but has drastically increased the fiscal burden on one of the main drivers of Louisiana's economy – the oil and gas industry. Our natural resources have driven Louisiana's economy for generations, transforming it into one of the nation's leading oil and gas producers. The shutdowns prompted by the outbreak of COVID-19 and a global price war sent oil prices plummeting to catastrophic lows.

In addition to this significant financial burden, frivolous coastal litigation brought against the oil and gas industry by the state, several parishes, and the City of New Orleans are the source of a continual cost drain on more than 200 companies paying to defend 43 lawsuits, which they must do regardless of the economy. This double-whammy has dealt a devastating blow to the energy industry.

During the regular session, legislation was proposed to clarify and reaffirm the intent of the Coastal Zone Management Act and place state regulation back in the hands of the state, streamlining enforcement action and management of state resources. The coastal lawsuits initially filed by locals under the guise of enforcing state-issued permits attempt to stretch the law far beyond its intentions, ignoring critical facts and involving private attorneys seeking financial benefit in a space meant for democratically elected decision makers. These lawsuits are an unprecedented abuse of the Coastal Zone Management Act, designed by plaintiffs' lawyers for their benefit, as is detailed in their contingency fee contracts.

Legislation to clarify the state's role in enforcing state permits passed out of the Senate Natural Resources Committee but never received a hearing on the Senate floor. Additionally, a resolution to urge and request that local governments dismiss the coastal lawsuits was passed by both chambers. The resolution does not require the Governor's signature to go into effect.

While the coastal lawsuits plaguing Louisiana's energy producers remained unchecked this session, LABI will continue to defend against litigation that has directly contributed to the decline of the energy sector in Louisiana. Working together to restart our economy and open the pipelines for tax-generating activity is the only way Louisiana and our communities will recover from the economic effects of this crisis. However, robust, long-lasting economic benefits will be stifled if short-sighted attempts are made to transfer COVID-19-related costs from governments to businesses through lawsuits.

“

The oil and gas industry is a partner in coastal restoration... I think that the lawsuits are ill-conceived. ”

-SEN. SHARON HEWITT (R-SLIDELL)



**THE VOICE OF BUSINESS.
AMPLIFIED.**

RANKINGS KEY:

- **MOST VALUABLE POLICYMAKERS (MVPS):** Scored 100 percent on the legislation important to LABI and the state's employers.

- **ALL-STARS:** Scored 90 percent or higher on the legislation important to LABI and the state's employers.

- **HONORABLE MENTIONS:** Scored 80 percent or higher on the legislation important to LABI and the state's employers.

CHAMPIONS

SNAPSHOT

MOST VALUABLE POLICYMAKERS (MVPs)

100%

PRESIDENT PAGE CORTEZ	SEN. BARROW PEACOCK	REP. DARYL DESHOTEL	REP. JONATHAN GOUDEAU	REP. CHUCK OWEN
SEN. MARK ABRAHAM	SEN. MIKE REESE	REP. PHILLIP DEVILLIER	REP. LANCE HARRIS	REP. THOMAS PRESSLY
SEN. BRET ALLAIN	SEN. KIRK TALBOT	REP. MARY DUBUISSON	REP. DODIE HORTON	REP. NEIL RISER
SEN. LOUIE BERNARD	SEN. BODI WHITE	REP. MICHAEL ECHOLS	REP. MIKE HUVAL	REP. TROY ROMERO
SEN. STEWART CATHEY	SEN. GLEN WOMACK	REP. RICK EDMONDS	REP. MIKE JOHNSON	REP. RODNEY SCHAMERHORN
SEN. HEATHER CLOUD	REP. BERYL AMEDEE	REP. KATHY EDMONSTON	REP. SHERMAN MACK	REP. ALAN SEABAUGH
SEN. MIKE FESI	REP. TONY BACALA	REP. JULIE EMERSON	REP. DANNY MCCORMICK	REP. VINNEY ST. BLANC
SEN. CAMERON HENRY	REP. LARRY BAGLEY	REP. LES FARNUM	REP. JACK MCFARLAND	REP. PHILLIP TARVER
SEN. BOB HENSGENS	REP. BEAU BEAULLIEU	REP. GABE FIRMENT	REP. SCOTT MCKNIGHT	REP. POLLY THOMAS
SEN. SHARON HEWITT	REP. STUART BISHOP	REP. BRYAN FONTENOT	REP. WAYNE MCMAHEN	REP. CHRIS TURNER
SEN. RONNIE JOHNS	REP. RYAN BOURRIAQUE	REP. BARBARA FREIBERG	REP. BLAKE MIGUEZ	REP. BILL WHEAT
SEN. PATRICK MCMATH	REP. RHONDA BUTLER	REP. LARRY FRIEMAN	REP. BUDDY MINCEY	REP. MARK WRIGHT
SEN. BARRY MILLIGAN	REP. RAYMOND CREWS	REP. FOY GADBERRY	REP. RICHARD NELSON	REP. 'ZEE' ZERINGUE
SEN. ROBERT MILLS	REP. PAULA DAVIS	REP. RAY GAROFALO	REP. BOB OWEN	

ALL-STARS

90% +

SEN. FRANKLIN FOIL	SEN. BETH MIZELL	REP. JEAN-PAUL COUSSAN	REP. JOHN ILLG	REP. NICHOLAS MUSCARELLO
SEN. EDDIE LAMBERT	SEN. JAY MORRIS	REP. STEPHEN DWIGHT	REP. BARRY IVEY	REP. JOHN STEFANSKI
SEN. FRED MILLS	SEN. RICK WARD	REP. CHARLES HENRY	REP. TIM KERNER	REP. FRANCIS THOMPSON
REP. DEWITH CARRIER	SPEAKER CLAY SCHEXNAYDER	REP. STEPHANIE HILFERTY	REP. GREG MILLER	REP. DEBBIE VILLIO

HONORABLE MENTIONS

80% +

SEN. PATRICK CONNICK	REP. KEN BRASS	REP. JEREMY LACOMBE	REP. JOE STAGNI
SEN. J. ROGERS POPE	REP. CHAD BROWN	REP. JOE MARINO	REP. MALINDA WHITE

SCORECARD

2020 SESSION

SNAPSHOT

SENATE

ABRAHAM, MARK	100%	LAMBERT, EDDIE	91%
ALLAIN, BRET	100%	LUNEAU, JAY	31%
BARROW, REGINA	41%	MCMATH, PATRICK	100%
BERNARD, LOUIE	100%	MILLIGAN, BARRY	100%
BOUIE, JOE	27%	MILLS, FRED	96%
CATHEY, STEWART	100%	MILLS, ROBERT	100%
CLOUD, HEATHER	100%	MIZELL, BETH	96%
CONNICK, PATRICK	83%	MORRIS, JAY	96%
CORTEZ, PAGE	100%	PEACOCK, BARROW	100%
FESI, MIKE	100%	POPE, J. ROGERS	85%
FIELDS, CLEO	33%	PRICE, ED	55%
FOIL, FRANKLIN	96%	REESE, MIKE	100%
HARRIS, JIMMY	36%	SMITH, GARY	71%
HENRY, CAMERON	100%	TALBOT, KIRK	100%
HENSGENS, BOB	100%	WARD, RICK	90%
HEWITT, SHARON	100%	WHITE, BODI	100%
JACKSON, KATRINA	23%	WOMACK, GLEN	100%
JOHNS, RONNIE	100%		

HOUSE

ADAMS, ROY DARYL	77%	FREIBERG, BARBARA	100%	MOORE, PAT	72%
AMEDEE, BERYL	100%	FRIEMAN, LARRY	100%	MUSCARELLO, NICHOLAS	96%
BACALA, TONY	100%	GADBERRY, FOY	100%	NELSON, RICHARD	100%
BAGLEY, LARRY	100%	GAROFALO, RAY	100%	NEWELL, CANDACE	32%
BEAULLIEU, BEAU	100%	GOUDEAU, JONATHAN	100%	OWEN, BOB	100%
BISHOP, STUART	100%	GREEN, KYLE	57%	OWEN, CHUCK	100%
BOURRIAGUE, RYAN	100%	HARRIS, LANCE	100%	PHELPS, TAMMY	28%
BRASS, KEN	84%	HENRY, CHARLES	94%	PIERRE, VINCENT	68%
BROWN, CHAD	89%	HILFERTY, STEPHANIE	96%	PRESSLY, THOMAS	100%
BRYANT, MARCUS	51%	HORTON, DODIE	100%	RISER, NEIL	100%
BUTLER, RHONDA	100%	HUVAL, MIKE	100%	ROMERO, TROY	100%
CARPENTER, BARBARA	57%	ILLG, JOHN	94%	SCHAMERHORN, RODNEY	100%
CARRIER, DEWITH	94%	IVEY, BARRY	96%	SCHEXNAYDER, CLAY	96%
CARTER, GARY	47%	JEFFERSON, PATRICK	49%	SEABAUGH, ALAN	100%
CARTER, ROBBIE	38%	JENKINS, SAM	57%	SELDERS, LARRY	54%
CARTER, WILFORD	39%	JOHNSON, MIKE	100%	ST. BLANC, VINNEY	100%
CORMIER, MACK	47%	JOHNSON, TRAVIS	76%	STAGNI, JOE	80%
COUSSAN, JEAN-PAUL	96%	JORDAN, EDMOND	52%	STEFANSKI, JOHN	96%
CREWS, RAYMOND	100%	KERNER, TIM	94%	TARVER, PHILLIP	100%
DAVIS, PAULA	100%	LACOMBE, JEREMY	83%	THOMAS, POLLY	100%
DESHOTEL, DARYL	100%	LANDRY, MANDIE	24%	THOMPSON, FRANCIS	95%
DEVILLIER, PHILLIP	100%	LARVADAIN, ED	37%	TURNER, CHRIS	100%
DUBUISSON, MARY	100%	LYONS, RODNEY	45%	VILLIO, DEBBIE	94%
DUPLESSIS, ROYCE	44%	MACK, SHERMAN	100%	WHEAT, BILL	100%
DWIGHT, STEPHEN	96%	MARINO, JOE	80%	WHITE, MALINDA	88%
ECHOLS, MIKE	100%	MCCORMICK, DANNY	100%	WILLARD, MATTHEW	44%
EDMONDS, RICK	100%	MCFARLAND, JACK	100%	WRIGHT, MARK	100%
EDMONSTON, KATHY	100%	MCKNIGHT, SCOTT	100%	ZERINGUE, JEROME	100%

EMERSON, JULIE	100%	MCMAHEN, WAYNE	100%
FARNUM, LES	100%	MIGUEZ, BLAKE	100%
FIRMINT, GABE	100%	MILLER, DUSTIN	59%
FONTENOT, BRYAN	100%	MILLER, GREG	96%
FREEMAN, AIMEE	77%	MINCEY, BUDDY	100%

The following scores could not be calculated because the legislators were not present and voting for at least 80% of LABI's scorable votes.

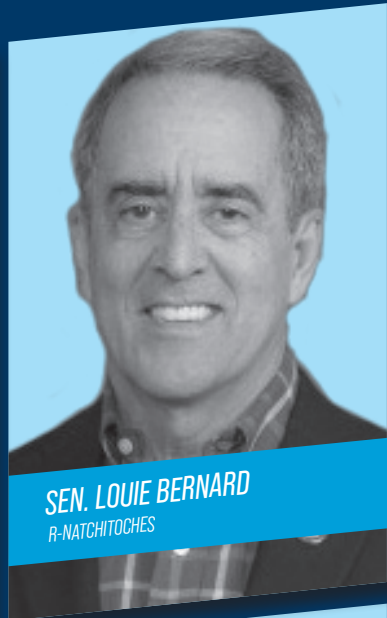
SEN. BOUDREAUX	REP. GAINES	REP. JAMES
SEN. CARTER	REP. GLOVER	REP. JONES
SEN. PETERSON	REP. HODGES	REP. MAGEE
SEN. TARVER	REP. HOLLIS	REP. MARCELLE
REP. COX	REP. HUGHES	



SEN. MARK ABRAHAM
R-LAKE CHARLES



SEN. BRET ALLAIN
R-FRANKLIN



SEN. LOUIE BERNARD
R-NATCHITOCHES



SEN. STEWART CATHEY
R-MONROE



SEN. HEATHER CLOUD
R-TURKEY CREEK



PRESIDENT PAGE CORTEZ
R-LAFAYETTE



SEN. MIKE FESI
R-HOUMA



SEN. CAMERON HENRY
R-METAIRIE

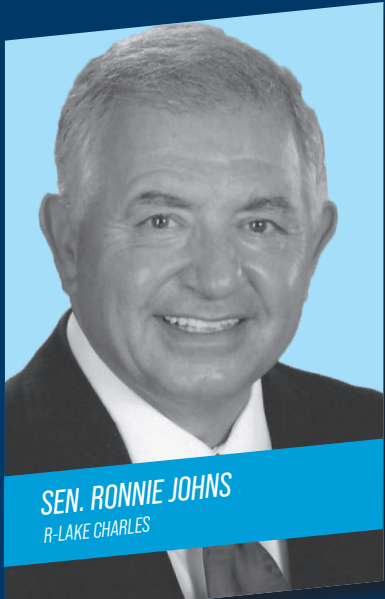


SEN. BOB HENSGENS
R-ABBEVILLE



SEN. SHARON HEWITT
R-SLIDELL

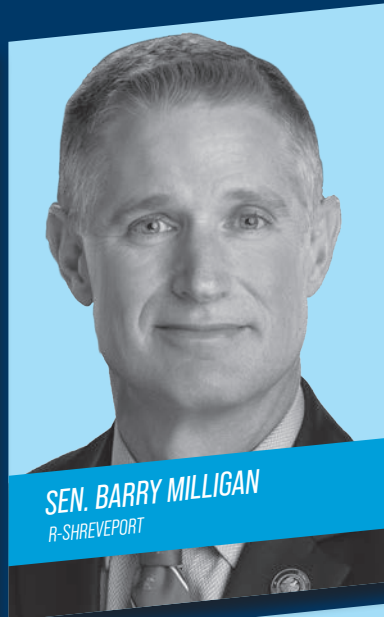
SENATE MVPs



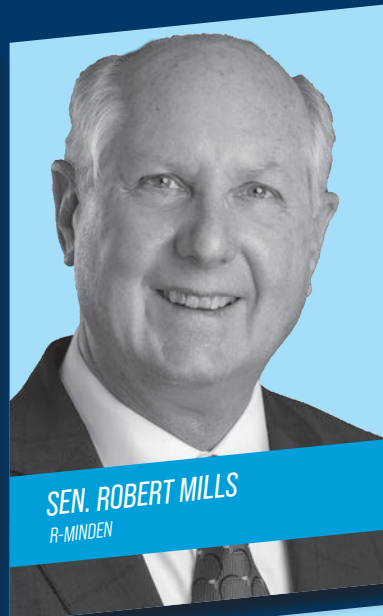
SEN. RONNIE JOHNS
R-LAKE CHARLES



SEN. PATRICK MCMATH
R-COVINGTON



SEN. BARRY MILLIGAN
R-SHREVEPORT



SEN. ROBERT MILLS
R-MINDEN



SEN. BARROW PEACOCK
R-BOSSIER CITY



SEN. MIKE REESE
R-LEESVILLE



SEN. KIRK TALBOT
R-RIVER RIDGE



SEN. BODI WHITE
R-CENTRAL



SEN. GLEN WOMACK
R-HARRISONBURG

SENATE MVPs



REP. BERYL AMEDEE
R-HOUMA



REP. TONY BACALA
R-PRAIRIEVILLE



REP. LARRY BAGLEY
R-STONEWALL



REP. BEAU BEAULLIEU
R-NEW IBERIA



REP. STUART BISHOP
R-LAFAYETTE



REP. RYAN BOURRIAQUE
R-ABBEVILLE



REP. RHONDA BUTLER
R-VILLE PLATTE



REP. RAYMOND CREWS
R-BOSSIER CITY



REP. PAULA DAVIS
R-BATON ROUGE



REP. DARYL DESHOTEL
R-MARKSVILLE

HOUSE MVPS



REP. PHILLIP DEVILLIER
R-EUNICE



REP. MARY DUBUISSON
R-SLIDELL



REP. MICHAEL ECHOLS
R-MONROE



REP. RICK EDMONDS
R-BATON ROUGE



REP. KATHY EDMONSTON
R-GONZALES



REP. JULIE EMERSON
R-CARENCRO



REP. LES FARNUM
R-SULPHUR



REP. GABE FIRMENT
R-POLLOCK



REP. BRYAN FONTENOT
R-THIBODAUX



REP. BARBARA FREIBERG
R-BATON ROUGE

HOUSE MVPS



REP. LARRY FRIEMAN
R-ABITA SPRINGS



REP. FOY GADBERRY
R-WEST MONROE



REP. RAY GAROFALO
R-CHALMETTE



REP. JONATHAN GOUDEAU
R-LAFAYETTE



REP. LANCE HARRIS
R-ALEXANDRIA



REP. DODIE HORTON
R-HAUGHTON



REP. MIKE HUVAL
R-BREAUX BRIDGE



REP. MIKE JOHNSON
R-PINEVILLE



REP. SHERMAN MACK
R-ALBANY



REP. DANNY MCCORMICK
R-OIL CITY

HOUSE MVPS



REP. JACK MCFARLAND
R-JONESBORO



REP. SCOTT MCKNIGHT
R-BATON ROUGE



REP. WAYNE MCMAHEN
R-MINDEN



REP. BLAKE MIGUEZ
R-ERATH



REP. BUDDY MINCEY
R-DENHAM SPRINGS



REP. RICHARD NELSON
R-MANDEVILLE



REP. BOB OWEN
R-SLIDELL



REP. CHUCK OWEN
R-ROSEPINE



REP. THOMAS PRESSLY
R-SHREVEPORT



REP. NEIL RISER
R-COLUMBIA

HOUSE MVPS



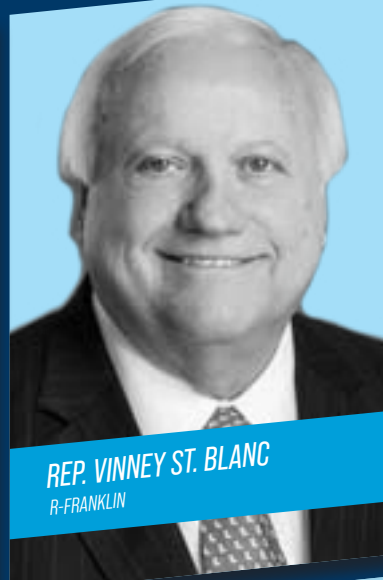
REP. TROY ROMERO
R-JENNINGS



REP. RODNEY SCHAMERHORN
R-HORNBECK



REP. ALAN SEABAUGH
R-SHREVEPORT



REP. VINNEY ST. BLANC
R-FRANKLIN



REP. PHILLIP TARVER
R-LAKE CHARLES



REP. POLLY THOMAS
R-METAIRIE



REP. CHRIS TURNER
R-RUSTON



REP. BILL WHEAT
R-PONCHATOULA



REP. MARK WRIGHT
R-COVINGTON



REP. JEROME ZERINGUE
R-HOUMA

HOUSE MVPS

ALLI STARS

SENATE

SEN. FRANKLIN FOIL
R-BATON ROUGE



SEN. EDDIE LAMBERT
R-GONZALES



SEN. FRED MILLS
R-PARKS



SEN. BETH MIZELL
R-FRANKLINTON



SEN. JAY MORRIS
R-WEST MONROE



SEN. RICK WARD
R-PORT ALLEN



HOUSE

REP. DEWITH CARRIER
R-OAKDALE



REP. JEAN-PAUL COUSSAN
R-LAFAYETTE



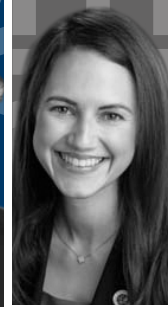
REP. STEPHEN DWIGHT
R-LAKE CHARLES



REP. CHARLES HENRY
R-JEFFERSON



REP. STEPHANIE HILFERTY
R-METAIRIE



REP. JOHN ILLG
R-RIVER RIDGE



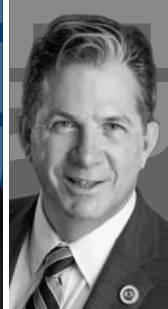
REP. BARRY IVEY
R-BATON ROUGE



REP. TIM KERNER
R-LAFITTE



REP. GREG MILLER
R-NORCO



REP. NICHOLAS MUSCARELLO
R-HAMMOND



REP. CLAY SCHEXNAYDER
R-GONZALES



REP. JOHN STEFANSKI
R-CROWLEY



REP. FRANCIS THOMPSON
D-DELHI



REP. DEBBIE VILLIO
R-KENNER



HONORABLE MENTIONS

SEN. PATRICK CONNICK

[R-MARRERO]

SEN. J. ROGERS POPE

[R-DENHAM SPRINGS]

REP. KEN BRASS

[D-VACHERIE]

REP. CHAD BROWN

[D-PLAQUEMINE]

REP. JEREMY LACOMBE

[D-LIVONIA]

REP. JOE MARINO

[I-GRETNA]

REP. JOE STAGNI

[R-KENNER]

REP. MALINDA WHITE

[D-BOGALUSA]

THE METHODOLOGY.



A check indicates the legislator voted with LABI's position on a bill.



An X indicates the legislator voted opposite of LABI's position on a bill. An X will deduct from their overall score.



An A indicates an excused absence.

Typically, the Scorecard methodology will also include an A-, which indicates that a legislator was absent when LABI needed his or her support on a piece of legislation and there was not a valid excuse for the absence. Due to COVID-19, LABI will not penalize legislators for any absences this year. However, if a legislator was not present and voting for at least 80% of LABI's scorable votes, the legislator will not receive a score. Points earned this year will be carried over to future Scorecards and will be factored into cumulative scores.

HOUSE

2020 SCORE

POSSIBLE EARNED SCORE

SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF SB 189
POINTS (Y) 75 WITH LABI 62 AGAINST LABI 39 EXCUSED ABSENT 3

ATTORNEY ADVERTISING SB 395
POINTS (Y) 50 WITH LABI 78 AGAINST LABI 23 EXCUSED ABSENT 3

TORT REFORM SB 418
POINTS (Y) 100 WITH LABI 72 AGAINST LABI 28 EXCUSED ABSENT 4

LIABILITY SB 435
POINTS (Y) 50 WITH LABI 97 AGAINST LABI 0 EXCUSED ABSENT 7

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SB 461
POINTS (Y) 50 WITH LABI 98 AGAINST LABI 0 EXCUSED ABSENT 6

COVID LIABILITY SB 491
POINTS (Y) 50 WITH LABI 99 AGAINST LABI 0 EXCUSED ABSENT 5

COVID LIABILITY SB 508
POINTS (Y) 50 WITH LABI 94 AGAINST LABI 0 EXCUSED ABSENT 10

COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS HB 313
POINTS (Y) 50 WITH LABI 92 AGAINST LABI 1 EXCUSED ABSENT 11

EVIDENCE HB 597
POINTS (Y) 50 WITH LABI 61 AGAINST LABI 39 EXCUSED ABSENT 4

COVID LIABILITY HB 826
POINTS (Y) 100 WITH LABI 90 AGAINST LABI 0 EXCUSED ABSENT 14

	POSSIBLE	EARNED	SCORE	SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF SB 189 POINTS (Y) 75 WITH LABI 62 AGAINST LABI 39 EXCUSED ABSENT 3	ATTORNEY ADVERTISING SB 395 POINTS (Y) 50 WITH LABI 78 AGAINST LABI 23 EXCUSED ABSENT 3	TORT REFORM SB 418 POINTS (Y) 100 WITH LABI 72 AGAINST LABI 28 EXCUSED ABSENT 4	LIABILITY SB 435 POINTS (Y) 50 WITH LABI 97 AGAINST LABI 0 EXCUSED ABSENT 7	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SB 461 POINTS (Y) 50 WITH LABI 98 AGAINST LABI 0 EXCUSED ABSENT 6	COVID LIABILITY SB 491 POINTS (Y) 50 WITH LABI 99 AGAINST LABI 0 EXCUSED ABSENT 5	COVID LIABILITY SB 508 POINTS (Y) 50 WITH LABI 94 AGAINST LABI 0 EXCUSED ABSENT 10	COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS HB 313 POINTS (Y) 50 WITH LABI 92 AGAINST LABI 1 EXCUSED ABSENT 11	EVIDENCE HB 597 POINTS (Y) 50 WITH LABI 61 AGAINST LABI 39 EXCUSED ABSENT 4	COVID LIABILITY HB 826 POINTS (Y) 100 WITH LABI 90 AGAINST LABI 0 EXCUSED ABSENT 14
Gaines	925	350	N/A	X	X	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	A
Garofalo	950	950	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Glover	-	-	N/A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Goudeau	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Green	1,175	675	57%	X	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Harris	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Henry	1,175	1,100	94%	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hilferty	1,175	1,125	96%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Hodges	750	750	N/A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	✓	✓	✓
Hollis	725	725	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Horton	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hughes	925	475	N/A	X	A	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	X	A
Huval	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Illg	1,175	1,100	94%	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ivey	1,125	1,075	96%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
James	825	225	N/A	X	X	X	A	✓	✓	✓	A	A	A
Jefferson	1,175	575	49%	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Jenkins	1,175	675	57%	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Johnson, M.	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Johnson, T.	1,025	775	76%	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓
Jones	850	250	N/A	X	X	X	✓	A	✓	A	✓	X	A
Jordan	1,050	550	52%	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Kerner	1,175	1,100	94%	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LaCombe	1,025	850	83%	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	X	✓
Landry	1,025	250	24%	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	X	A
Larvadain	1,075	400	37%	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	A
Lyons	1,100	500	45%	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
Mack	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Magee	925	875	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	A	X	✓
Marcelle	800	200	N/A	X	X	X	✓	✓	A	A	✓	X	A
Marino	1,025	825	80%	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	X	✓
McCormick	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McFarland	1,125	1,125	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McKnight	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McMahen	1,100	1,100	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Miguez	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Miller, D.	975	575	59%	X	X	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	X	✓

HOUSE

2020 SCORE

POSSIBLE EARNED SCORE

TAX REBATES HB 846

POINTS (Y) 50
WITH LABI 97
AGAINST LABI 0
EXCUSED ABSENT 7

FRANCHISE TAX HCR 66

POINTS (Y) 50
WITH LABI 72
AGAINST LABI 24
EXCUSED ABSENT 8

FRANCHISE TAX SB 6

POINTS (Y) 50
WITH LABI 82
AGAINST LABI 9
EXCUSED ABSENT 13

SEAT BELT SB 9

POINTS (Y) 75
WITH LABI 76
AGAINST LABI 25
EXCUSED ABSENT 3

VENDOR'S COMP HB 11

POINTS (Y) 50
WITH LABI 88
AGAINST LABI 3
EXCUSED ABSENT 13

EZ PROGRAM HB 13

POINTS (Y) 50
WITH LABI 62
AGAINST LABI 32
EXCUSED ABSENT 10

TORT REFORM HB 44

POINTS (Y) 50
WITH LABI 74
AGAINST LABI 25
EXCUSED ABSENT 5

TORT REFORM HB 57

POINTS (Y) 100
WITH LABI 86
AGAINST LABI 15
EXCUSED ABSENT 3

TORT REFORM HB 66

POINTS (Y) 75
WITH LABI 88
AGAINST LABI 8
EXCUSED ABSENT 8

	POSSIBLE	EARNED	SCORE	TAX REBATES HB 846	FRANCHISE TAX HCR 66	FRANCHISE TAX SB 6	SEAT BELT SB 9	VENDOR'S COMP HB 11	EZ PROGRAM HB 13	TORT REFORM HB 44	TORT REFORM HB 57	TORT REFORM HB 66
Gaines	925	350	N/A	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Garofalo	950	950	100%	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Glover	-	-	N/A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Goudeau	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Green	1,175	675	57%	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Harris	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Henry	1,175	1,100	94%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hilferty	1,175	1,125	96%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hodges	750	750	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hollis	725	725	N/A	A	A	✓	✓	A	A	A	A	✓
Horton	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hughes	925	475	N/A	✓	✗	✓	✗	A	✗	✗	✓	✓
Huval	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Illg	1,175	1,100	94%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ivey	1,125	1,075	96%	✓	✗	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
James	825	225	N/A	A	A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Jefferson	1,175	575	49%	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Jenkins	1,175	675	57%	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Johnson, M.	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Johnson, T.	1,025	775	76%	✓	✗	A	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Jones	850	250	N/A	✓	A	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	A
Jordan	1,050	550	52%	✓	✗	A	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	A
Kerner	1,175	1,100	94%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LaCombe	1,025	850	83%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
Landry	1,025	250	24%	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Larvadain	1,075	400	37%	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Lyons	1,100	500	45%	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	A
Mack	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Magee	925	875	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓
Marcelle	800	200	N/A	✓	✗	A	✗	A	✗	✗	✗	A
Marino	1,025	825	80%	✓	✓	✓	✗	A	A	✓	✓	✓
McCormick	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McFarland	1,125	1,125	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
McKnight	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McMahen	1,100	1,100	100%	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Miguez	1,175	1,175	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Miller, D.	975	575	59%	✓	✗	✓	✗	A	✗	✗	✓	✓



APPENDIX.

CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM BILLS TO ACTS PASSED

FROM SPECIAL SESSION

ACT 37 - CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 2020

For decades, Louisiana has been a poster-child for lawsuit abuse. Frivolous lawsuits have driven up the cost of doing business in our state and led to sky-high auto insurance premiums. Common-sense legal reform to limit frivolous lawsuits was the **#1 priority** for LABI and its members during the 2020 Legislative Sessions.

HB 57 by Speaker Clay Schexnayder (R-Gonzales) was a major win for Louisiana businesses and families, all of whom have been hit hard recently by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill was drafted based on input from a wide array of industry stakeholders and passed with broad, bipartisan support. It is a crucial first step to bringing Louisiana's legal system in line with the rest of the country, lowering car insurance rates, and tackling barriers to economic and job growth that have consistently plagued our state. Specifically, Act 37:

1. Lowers the jury trial threshold from \$50,000 to \$10,000.

Why it matters: The reduced threshold will bring Louisiana closer in line with the rest of the country and limit the ability of trial lawyers to abuse the system by filing frivolous lawsuits. A lower threshold will increase access of Louisiana citizens to a fair, transparent and efficient judicial system that is focused on facts, not politics.

2. Repeals the "seat belt gag rule" to allow a defendant to introduce evidence that a plaintiff was not wearing a seat belt, similar to Senator Hewitt's SB 9.

Why it matters: Allowing evidence of seat belt usage will increase transparency in the judicial process and allow judges or juries to account for a plaintiff's decision not to wear a seat belt when awarding damages.

3. Bars civil plaintiffs from introducing evidence of a defendant's auto insurance policy at trial, except in certain very limited circumstances, and prohibits telling jury the identity of the defendant's insurance company. Under Act 37, only the judge can discuss insurance coverage, and even then, only through jury instructions given at the beginning and end of a trial.

Why it matters: By limiting the introduction of evidence of insurance, juries will be more likely to award fair damages that reflect a plaintiff's true injury as opposed to inflated awards based largely on an insurer's ability to pay.

4. Limits medical damages to the amount actually paid by a plaintiff. This means that when a plaintiff's medical expenses have been paid by their private health insurer or Medicare, recovery is limited to the amount that the plaintiff actually paid, including co-pays, deductibles and other "cost-sharing" expenses. After a jury awards the verdict, Act 37 allows the judge to look at the difference between the amount billed for medical care and the amount paid by the plaintiff, and award up to 40 percent of the difference to the plaintiff.

Why it matters: Damage awards for personal injury cases will more fairly and accurately reflect a plaintiff's actual out-of-pocket medical expenses. This is a win for all Louisiana businesses who have been plagued by frivolous lawsuits and rising insurance premiums.

ACT 36 - REPEAL OF SEAT BELT GAG RULE

SB 9 by Sen. Sharon Hewitt (R-Slidell) permits a judge or jury to decide if evidence of seat belt usage should be introduced in civil trials related to injuries from motor vehicle accidents, repealing the "gag rule" that has historically banned this evidence from courtrooms.

Why it matters: Allowing evidence of seat belt usage will increase transparency in the judicial process and allow judges or juries to account for a plaintiff's decision not to wear a seatbelt when awarding damages.

COVID-19 RELIEF BILLS TO ACTS PASSED

FROM REGULAR SESSION

ACT 243 - UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TAXES

The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI) sponsored Act 243, **SB 461 by Sen. Mike Reese (R-DeRidder)** from the 2020 regular session, which will prevent Louisiana employers from having to pay over half a billion dollars in unemployment compensation (UC) taxes next year.

Why it matters: Gov. John Bel Edwards issued proclamations in March that authorized UC benefits for individuals unemployed due to COVID-19-related reasons. The Governor declared that these benefits would not be charged to employers' individual experience-rated tax accounts. However, without this Act, any benefits not chargeable to a specific employer's UC tax account would have been assessed against what is called the Social Charge Recoupment Account (SCRA) and taxed against all private-sector employers the following year. These COVID-19 UC benefits totaled nearly \$847 million dollars on July 31, when the assessment from the SCRA is calculated for 2021.

Act 243 will allow the state's UC trust fund to absorb the shock of these, resulting in a gradual recoupment of the cost over years rather than the single-year tax collection that would have taken place under previous law.

It must be noted that the Louisiana Workforce Commission announced the state's UC trust fund will become insolvent in September 2020. Further legislative action will be needed to address this insolvency either in an anticipated special session this fall or the regular session next year, if action is not taken at the federal level. Over 12,000 small businesses have submitted applications so far.

ACT 311 - SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF FUND

The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI) supported Act 311, **SB 189 by Sen. Bodi White (R-Central)** from the 2020 regular session, which allocates \$275 million of federal CARES Act funding for grants to Louisiana small businesses that suffered adverse impacts from the COVID-19 crisis resulting in their forced or voluntary closure or restricted operations.

Why it matters: The Louisiana Main Street Recovery Program is providing eligible businesses with 50 or fewer employees grants up to \$15,000 to reimburse business expenses incurred after March 1, 2020 as a result of COVID-19.

The Louisiana Department of Treasury is handling applications and distributing the funds to eligible businesses. Priority was given for the first 21 days to businesses that did not receive relief from other programs established in response to the coronavirus pandemic, such as the Paycheck Protection Program. \$40 million is set aside to be dispersed to minority, veteran or women-owned businesses.

ACTS 303, 305, 336 & 362 – COVID-19 LIMITED LIABILITY PROTECTION DURING STATE OF EMERGENCIES

SB 435 by Sen. Mark Abraham (R-Lake Charles), SB 491 by Sen. Sharon Hewitt (R-Slidell), SB 508 by Sen. Patrick McMath (R-Covington) and HB 826 by Rep. Thomas Pressly (R-Shreveport) were each approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. LABI supported a package of bills that will provide limited civil liability protection for COVID-19 exposure related to individuals and entities, including state or local government, that follow government standards and guidance during a state of emergency.

Why it matters: These pieces of Legislation provide protection to individuals, businesses and government entities who have stepped up to help keep Louisiana safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. They also helps protect businesses who substantially comply with federal, state and local guidance as they seek to re-hire workers, re-open their doors and begin growing again.

LABI identified this issue as one of the most important, if not the most important issue facing businesses, both large and small. Businesses cannot make definitive plans for re-opening without some certainty that they will not be subject to frivolous lawsuits from opportunistic trial lawyers.

These acts do not grant complete immunity to any person or business. Businesses who act with gross negligence or reckless misconduct or with any intent to cause harm should and will still be held accountable.

TAX AND FINANCE BILLS TO ACTS PASSED

FROM SPECIAL SESSION

ACT 15 - FRANCHISE TAX SUSPENSION

SB 6 by Sen. Bret Allain (R-Franklin) suspends the state franchise tax for a one-year period ending June 30, 2021 for small corporations with taxable capital of \$1 million or less. The initial tax of \$110 required of all new entities subject to the franchise tax is likewise suspended during the period.

Why it matters: Franchise taxes are essentially fees companies pay for the privilege of doing business in a state. They are not based on a company's profitability. Even when businesses make very little money or break even, they are required to pay the franchise tax. Fewer than 15 states actually have a franchise tax, and some are in the process of phasing theirs out. Statewide, the projected relief Act 15 represents to Louisiana's small businesses is around \$7.5 million.

ACT 27 - VENDOR'S COMPENSATION RATE INCREASE

HB 11 by Rep. John Stefanski (R-Crowley) raises the rate of vendor's compensation as a way to assist small retailers and restaurants.

Why it matters: In recognition of the administrative costs associated with collecting sales taxes for the state and remitting them to the department of revenue, businesses are allowed to retain a small portion of the revenue to compensate them for the expense. Most employers who collect sales taxes shut down or restricted their operations to help stem the tide of the COVID-19 outbreak in our state. The modest rate increase achieved by Act 27 will aid these employers with their cash flow as they fight to keep their doors open and workers on the job.

ACT 28 - ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM

HB 13 by Rep. Mark Wright (R-Covington) makes retail, restaurant and lodging establishments employing 50 or fewer workers once again eligible to participate in the Enterprise Zone incentive program.

Why it matters: Enterprise Zones are areas designated as economically distressed within the state. The Enterprise Zone incentive program provides a tax rebate to attract certain types of businesses to operate and employ in these communities. Restoring eligibility for restaurants and retailers not only assists their recovery, but will help those local economies in Louisiana that are weakest and in greatest need of employment opportunities for their citizens.

BILLS PASSED BUT VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR

SB 395 by Sen. Heather Cloud (R-Turkey Creek) sought to rein in attorney advertising by declaring false or misleading ads in which a plaintiff claims a windfall but does not disclose the amount deducted for attorney fees and court costs.

HB 313 by Rep. Thomas Pressly (R-Shreveport) would have clarified the bounds of liability for business organizations in Louisiana by legislatively repealing the single business enterprise theory of liability and restricting the ability of courts to impose liability on business organizations based on common business practices conducted by groups of related business entities. This bill was critical for the protection of small businesses and the promotion of access to capital for entrepreneurs.

HB 597 by Rep. Richard Nelson (R-Mandeville) would have removed a judicially created legal presumption that the lack of an injury, illness or condition prior to an accident and the subsequent allegation of an injury, illness or condition after an accident indicates causation of the injury, illness or condition.

HB 846 by Rep. Mark Wright (R-Covington) would have utilized the existing Competitive Projects Payroll Incentive Program to provide COVID-19-impacted retail, restaurant and lodging establishments with 50 or fewer employees a rebate for five or more new jobs and new payroll of at least \$40,000 created by the end of 2021.

SB 418 by Sen. Kirk Talbot (R-River Ridge) would have created the Omnibus Premium Reduction Act of 2020. The bill would have lowered the jury trial threshold from \$50,000 to \$10,000, reformed the collateral source rule, repealed the direct action statute, extended the prescriptions for tort actions from 1 year to 2 years for motor vehicle accidents, eliminated the seat belt gag rule, and required a mandatory 10 percent rate reduction for personal and commercial auto insurance.

HB 55 by Rep. Mike Johnson (R-Pineville) from the special session would have allowed seat belt usage to be submitted as evidence to a judge or jury in a lawsuit. Gov. Edwards vetoed the bill, but the statute prohibiting this evidence to be submitted was repealed through HB 57 by Speaker Clay Schexnayder.

LABI EVENTS 2020

AUG

15 Election Day
(Reschedule Municipal
General/Runoff)

27 LABI Continuing Education
Virtual Series I
(Civil Justice Reform
Act of 2020)

SEPTEMBER

07 Labor Day (office closed)

10 LABI Q 3 Board Meeting
& Ribbon Cutting

LABI Continuing Education
Virtual Series II (Congressional Update/Redistricting)

OCTOBER

01-02 LABI Workers Comp
Seminar Zoom

20-27 Early Voting Period for
November 5
Presidential Election

LABI Continuing Education
Virtual Series III (Energy and
Infrastructure)

NOVEMBER

03 Presidential & Congressional
Primary Election

12 Congressional Breakfast
& Federal Update

LABI Continuing Education
Virtual Series IV (Fiscal and
Tax Reform/2021 Legislative Forecast)

20-28 Early Voting Period for
December 5 General/Runoff

26-27 Thanksgiving (office closed)

LABI Q4 Board Meeting
Free Enterprise Awards-Happy
Hour & Awards Ceremony

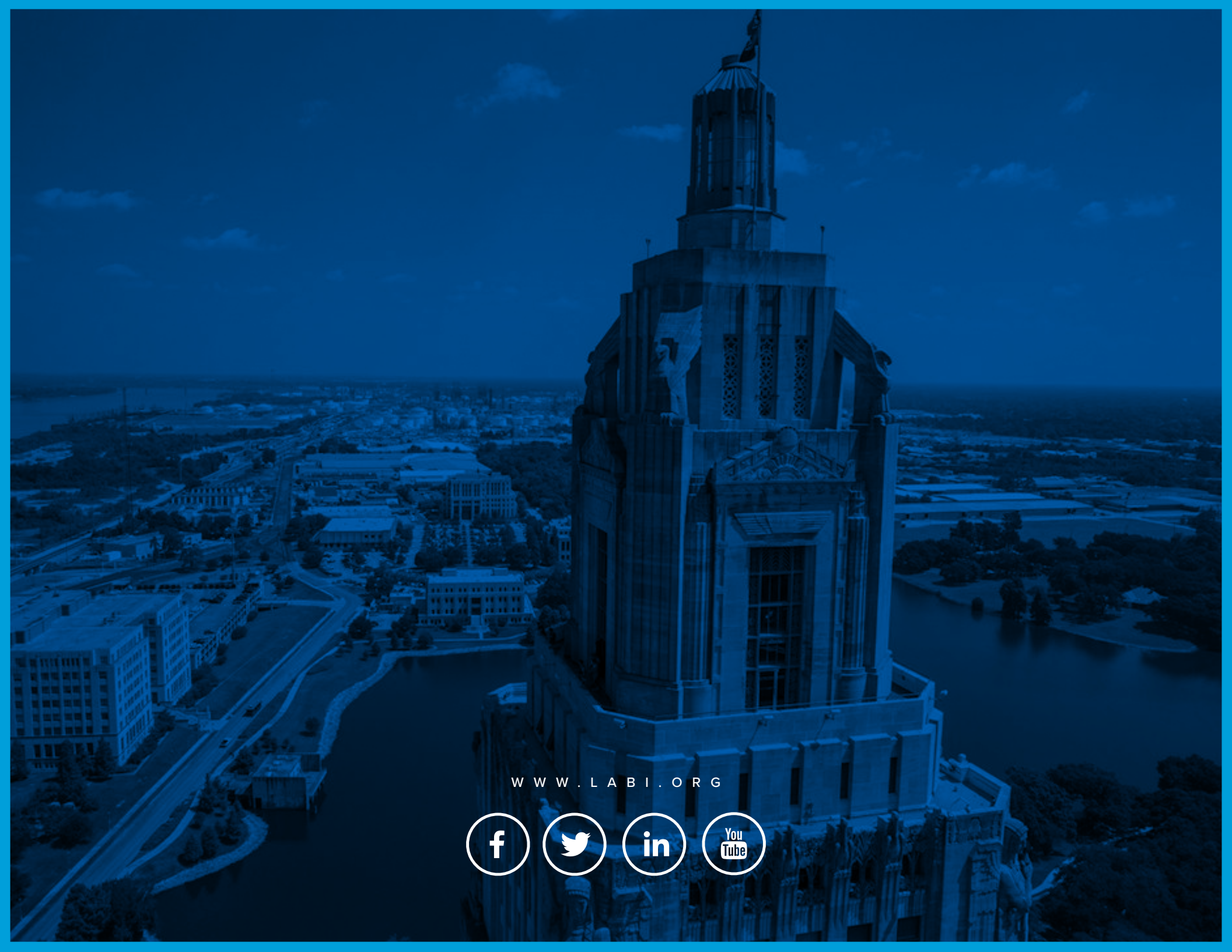
DECEMBER

05 Election Day

07 LABI Executive Committee Dinner

LABI Continuing Education
Virtual Series V (Ethics Training
& Holiday Party)

24-25 Christmas (office closed)



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