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Republican Delegation Issues Session Wrap-Up

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA – The Louisiana Republican Legislative Delegation announces their legislative highlights from the 2006 Regular Legislative Session.

Republican legislators are credited with the passage and/or demise of many legislative instruments. Many Republican-led bills have passed or await the Governor's signature. They include but not limited to the following:

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

- Speaker Salter, on behalf of many Republican Legislators - HR32
(Republicans demanded inclusion of the middle-class homeowners in the Governor's Road Home Program.)

Appropriations

- Sen. Boasso – SCR28 requests the Governor's Office and the Louisiana Recovery Authority to provide accurate, detailed information and work papers to the legislature at least seven business days before submitting legislative instruments for approval of proposals for authority expenditures.
- Rep. Lambert – HB728 dedicates a portion of truck and trailer registration and licensing fees and taxes for roads in the state highway system which are ineligible for federal assistance.

Civil Law and Procedure

- Rep. Burns – HB1302 provides for the interruption of prescription for Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita insurance claims
- Rep. Greene – HB13 (Constitutional Amendment) provides for greater qualifications for the office of judges

Commerce

- Rep. Burns – HB540 requires the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to develop an emergency communications system to withstand hurricane force winds
- Sen. Cain – SB5 prohibits Internet service providers from disclosing certain subscriber information.
- Rep. Hutter – HB96 (Act 330) provides that funeral establishments shall affix certain information on all caskets used for burial: name of the deceased contained in the casket, the date of death of the deceased and the name of the funeral home.
- Rep. LaBruzzo - HB1380 provides relative to viewing the body of a deceased parent by his children
- Rep. Trahan – HB988 (Act 218) provides with respect to unfair trade practices
- Sen. Hollis – SB357 (Act 458) provides relative to the enforcement of building codes by municipalities and parishes
- Sen. Michot - provides for anti-phishing regulation

Crime

- Rep. Martiny – HB100 (Act 142) expands definition of drug-free zone to include day care centers
- Rep. Walsworth – HB364 (Act 172) provides for a crime of theft committed by fraudulent or deceitful means against aged or disabled persons
- Rep. Hutter – HB743 (Act 199) creates the crime of unauthorized entry of a dwelling during a disaster or emergency
- Rep. Kleckley – HB80 (Act 24) provides for duty to register as a sex offender for ten years following conviction of a felony offense
- Rep. Scalise – HB760 (Act 275) provides with respect to prohibiting the seizure and confiscation of weapons and firearms during times of emergency or disaster
- Rep. Scalise – HB409 (Act 175) provides with respect to protocols to be followed by sex offenders in emergency situations
- Rep. Jane Smith – HB73 (Act 23) expands list of sex offenses for which an offender can be tested for AIDS
- Rep. Geymann – HB1369 (Act 1369) provides for supervised release of certain sex offenders.
- Rep. Pitre – HB88 (Act 140) creates the crime of hit and run damaging of a potable waterline by operation of a watercraft

Education

- Fought attempts to undermine the T.O.P.S. Program
- Rep. Crane – HB940 creates the Louisiana Geography Education Initiative Program
- Rep. Hutter - HB1023 (Act 99) requires the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges to work with BESE to improve linkages and career and technical education pathways between high schools and community and technical colleges

- Rep. Strain – HB154 (Act 251) requires certain persons who have been admitted to a post-secondary education institution for the first time to be vaccinated against meningococcal disease as a condition of registration for courses at such institution
- Sen. Quinn – SB296 (Constitutional Amendment) prohibits, with certain exceptions, legislative mandates increasing the financial burden of local school boards unless enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature

Governmental Affairs

- Rep. Beard - HB850 prohibits campaign contributions to elected officials from any person who has entered into certain transactions related to hurricane rebuilding efforts if such transactions are under the jurisdiction or supervision of the agency of the elected official
- Rep. Bowler – HB335 requires DHH, DSS, and DOE to delegate certain hearing and adjudication functions to the division of administrative law, unless the delegation of such functions is prohibited pursuant to a federal mandate and as a condition of federal funding
- Rep. Bruneau – HB109 provides for certain prohibited conduct relative to lobbying of the legislature
- Sen. Cain – HCR61 directs the governor to have lowered the flags flying over the State Capitol Building to half-staff in observance of the death of each Louisiana resident who is member of the United States armed forces and is killed in war.
- Rep. Crowe – HCR254 urges and requests the Department of Health and Hospitals to maximize the federal disproportionate share funding in order to meet the health care needs of individuals in areas affected by the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
- Rep. Daniel – HB58 prohibits public bodies from using only oral contacts with applicants for certain public positions and provides that records of such applicants are subject to the provisions of law relative to public records.
- Sen. Barham – SB575 provides for documenting and reporting contract with legal counsel to Louisiana attorney general's office.
- Sen. Dardenne – SB597 provides means to shield address of registered voters who are victims of abuse.
- Rep. M. Powell – HB604 eliminates the January election date for bond, tax, and other proposition elections
- Rep. M. Powell – HB669 requires an election proposition which authorizes the levy or increase of a tax to state the estimated amount reasonably expected to be collected from the proposal for an entire year.
- Sen. Malone – SB411 provides relative to the attorney general and district attorneys in instituting a civil action against an individual who has registered to run for office in violation of the Constitution of Louisiana.
- Republicans opposed HB927 which would do away with the Electoral College thus undermining Louisiana voters.

Health and Welfare

- Rep. Crowe – HCR254 urges and requests the Department of Health and Hospitals to maximize the federal disproportionate share funding in order to meet the health care needs of individuals in areas affected by the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- Rep. Johns – HB153 creates a statewide Prescription Monitoring Program, providing law enforcement with tools to curb legal prescription abuse through “doctor shopping” and “drug store shopping”.
- Rep. McVea – HB93 (Act 329) provides with respect to the practice of dentistry
- Rep. Winston – HB903 (Act 210) establishes criminal penalties for operating an adult residential care home without a license.
- Rep. Strain – HB302(Act 167) provides for retired dentists to practice at community health care clinics for no remuneration
- Rep. Strain – HB293 Provides relative to genetic testing of newborns
- Sen. Cheek – SB613 provides relative to nursing home reimbursement case mix methodology.
- Sen. Schedler – SB596 provides for penalties for performing mental health or substance abuse counseling without a license.

Insurance

- Rep. Erdey – HCR141 urges and requests support of federal legislation establishing a catastrophic reinsurance fund to support state efforts to keep homeowners' disaster insurance affordable
- Rep. Morrish – HCR 119 urges and requests the Office of Group Benefits to conduct a study of Health Access Louisiana, a proposal for health coverage reform in the state
- Rep. Tucker – HB1036 provides relative to investments of domestic insurers

Judiciary

- Sen. Fontenot – SB607 provides relative to a disaster operation plan for service animals and household pets.
- Sen. Lentini - SB407 (Act 121) authorizes DSS to intercept and seize winnings from progressive slot machine annuities from individuals in arrears in child support.
- Rep. White – HB87 (Act 327) requires hospitals to notify law enforcement agencies upon the release of certain persons
- Rep. Alexander - HB1379 Provides for obtaining a divorce when the parties have minor children

Labor

- Rep. T. Powell – HB577 (Act 388) provides relative to insurance cost containment

Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs

- Sen. Romero – SB658 provides for continuance of certain municipal fire and police civil service systems under certain circumstances

Natural Resources

- Sen. Theunissen - SB78 (Act 446) provides relative to reservations of mineral rights in conveyances of land.
- Sen. Dardenne – SB229 (Constitutional Amendment) repeals the Louisiana Coastal Restoration Fund and provides for the deposit of certain proceeds of any tobacco securitization into the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund.

Revenue

- Rep. Katz – HCR131 urges and requests the Department of Revenue to design an electronic tax return that is simpler and more easily understood and interpreted

Retirement

- Sen. Boasso – SB258 requires increases in benefits in state retirement systems to also provide for funding source.
- Rep. Schneider – HB922 changes final average compensation calculation period for new members of certain statewide retirement systems

Transportation, Highways and Public Works

- Rep. Toomy – HB820 (Act 203) provides for political subdivisions to receive bids electronically.
- Rep. Dove – HB452 (Act 181) requires levee districts in the coastal zone to submit annual reports regarding levee elevations
- Rep. Kennard – HB1308 (Act 432) revises safety inspection program for certain commercial motor vehicles
- Rep. Lambert – HB728 establishes a special fund in the state treasury, the State Highway Improvement Fund that direct monies collected from all truck and trailer registration to finance improvements to state highways that are eligible for federal money.
- Rep. Downs – HCR204 requests the Department of Transportation and Development to study speed limits and their enforcement on state and U.S. highways within municipalities
- Rep. Smiley – HB694 (Act 195) provides penalties for operators of motor vehicles cited for failure to yield the right-of-way
- Rep. Waddell – HB1103 (Act 416) provides relative to personal information provided on drivers license and motor vehicle registration applications by certain applicants

Ways and Means

- Rep. Tucker – HB607 provides with respect to state debt

Other

- While comparable legislation passed under the authorship of Democratic colleagues, several Republican legislators filed bills and spearheaded successful instruments in the best instrument of the state:

Consolidation of Orleans Government – Rep. Bruneau, Rep. Burns and Rep. Schneider

Expropriation - Rep. Bruneau, Sen. Cain, Rep. Schneider and Rep. Walsworth

Legacy Lawsuits – Rep. Daniel and Sen. Kostelka

Closed Primary Congressional Elections - Rep. Lancaster

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