

## Bills of Local Interest/Local Projects

- Act 611** - relative to Historic Districts and the Landmarks Commission in the City of New Orleans, anyone who demolishes a structure or edifice without a certificate of appropriateness will be fined not more than \$25,000 or fifteen percent of the most recent building valuation, whichever is greater.
- Act 105** - the Bouigny Improvement and Security District is set up, within the boundaries of Uppeline St. and Napoleon Ave., and between Prytania St. and Tchoupitoulas St., with municipal numbers on Prytania St. and Napoleon Ave. excluded.
- Act 441** - the Twinbrook Security District is defined, with requirements for board composition and parcel fees.
- Act 222** - the Department of Education will develop safety guidelines to encourage best practices for digital device use in schools.
- Act 276** - provides for administering federal food assistance programs directly to the hungriest children of our state.
- Act 649** - standardizes policies and adds parental leave to the unused leave pool for state employees.
- Act 583** - helps entrepreneurs by providing businesses with specifics on how and why licensing boards are creating and enforcing rules.
- Act 367** - protects the privacy of survivors of crime and the confidentiality of survivor shelters with protected information.
- Act 630** - provides survivors of crime access to their own law enforcement investigative records.
- Act 484** - implements standardized reporting for collection of firearms by Sheriffs.



State Representative  
**Aimee Adatto Freeman**  
District 98

**State Representative**  
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**2022**  
Legislative Update

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# 2022 Legislative Update

## State Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman



### Friends,

We've wrapped up the 2022 Legislative Session with a balanced budget. And, the legislature was able to fund some needed improvements: pay raises for teachers and school workers, funds to improve reading skills in lower grades, and a record-high increase in funding for higher education that includes pay raises.

The legislature also continued reforming the criminal justice system and passed legislation to address problems in the juvenile justice system. Although not passed unanimously, Louisiana now has a stringent new law covering women's reproductive health and personal medical choice of treatment.

This 2022 Legislative Session also dealt with the aftermath of last year's hurricanes, including dispersing federal dollars to be expended in the state.

District 98 neighbors and the City of New Orleans will eventually see direct benefits from the Louisiana Legislature's actions this session: in capital outlay projects the Port of New Orleans is set for \$143.7 Million; Sewerage and Water Board Power Plant, \$71.7 Million; Agenda for Children, \$3 Million; Children's Hospital (behavioral hospital), \$830,000; Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education, \$2.7 Million; NOCCA, \$19.4 Million; Lighthouse for the Blind, \$500,000, and the UNO base budget is at \$108.2 Million; SUNO base budget, \$22.2 Million; LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans base budget, \$256.5 Million. Plus, there is money for a study towards a passenger train between New Orleans and Baton Rouge!

This publication contains a brief description of some of this Session's actions, and you can always go to [legis.la.gov](http://legis.la.gov) to view committee hearings and floor debates on saved videos. Please stay in touch with me and my Legislative Assistant, Razan Badr, via phone 504-861-1614 or email [hse098@legis.la.gov](mailto:hse098@legis.la.gov). You are also welcome to come visit my new office location in Uptown Square, 200 Broadway St., near the Crescent City Farmers' Market location.

Sincerely,

Aimee Adatto Freeman  
State Representative  
District 98

## Constitutional Amendments | Election Dates

### November 8, 2022 - Election

**HB 59 (2021 RS)** allows a political subdivision to waive water charges incurred through damage not caused by the customer.

**HB 143 (2021 RS)** limits the increase in assessed value of certain immovable property in Orleans Parish after property reassessment of ad valorem taxes.

**HB 154 (2021 RS)** increases the cap on the amount of monies in certain state funds that can be invested in stocks.

**HB 298** prohibits the use of involuntary servitude except as it applies to the lawful administration of criminal justice.

**HB 315 (2021 RS)** allows members of civil service systems to support a political candidate within their immediate family.

**HB 395** removes the annual income recertification requirement for homeowners who are totally disabled to keep their residential special property tax assessment level.

**HB 599** creates an ad valorem tax exemption for veterans with certain service-connected disability ratings and for their surviving spouses.

**SB 154 (2021 RS)** allows taxing authorities to adjust ad valorem millage rates.

### December 10, 2022 - Election

**HB 178** prohibits non-U.S. citizens from registering to vote and/or voting in Louisiana elections.

**SB 75** requires Senate confirmation of gubernatorial appointments to the State Police Commission.

**SB 160** requires Senate confirmation of gubernatorial appointments to the State Civil Service Commission.

### November 13, 2023 - Election

**HB 166** clarifies that the timing of gubernatorial action on a bill and return of a vetoed bill to the legislature is based upon the legislative session in which the bill passed and to authorize the legislature, if it is in session, to consider vetoed bills without convening a separate veto session.

### Environmental News

**Act 443** Allows the State Mineral and Energy Board to enter into agreement for the production of wind energy, establishes a maximum acreage for wind leases in state waters off the coast, and removes restrictions on awarding such leases.

## Louisiana State Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman | District 98

**Committee Assignments:**  
Appropriations | Education | Retirement | Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget | Legislative Audit Advisory Council | House Select Committee on Women and Children

**Caucus Memberships:**  
Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus | Orleans Delegation | Democratic Caucus - Treasurer

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**Upcoming Elections** | **November 8** Congressional Primary (Early Voting: 10/25- 11/1)  
**December 10** Congressional General (Early Voting: 11/26 - 12/3)

# 2022 Session Highlights

## Appropriations/Funding

**Act 199** - General Appropriation Bill - contains \$39.8 Billion for the ordinary operating expenditures of the executive branch for FY 2022-2023, an \$835 Million increase over FY 2021-2022. When added to all other funds, including appropriations for the operation of the judiciary and the legislature, monetary judgments and ancillary funding, the total amount of appropriations for FY 2022-2023 is \$47 Billion.

## Insurance - Catastrophe Response

**Act 754** offers grant incentives to encourage new insurance companies to join the Louisiana property insurance market in the wake of the 2020 and 2021 hurricane seasons.

**Act 554** creates the "Louisiana Fortify Homes Program" to offer grants to retrofit roofs of property with a homestead exemption against catastrophic wind events.

**Act 263** establishes standards for communication and status updates between residential policyholders and their insurance companies following a named storm or hurricane.

## Insurance

**Act 724** sets a cost-sharing cap of \$75 for a 30-day supply of insulin on a drug formulary and requires formularies to include all classes of insulin.

**Act 339** protects retired fire employees from health insurance enrollment discrimination.

**Act 114** allows for discretionary group life insurance policies that don't adhere to standard eligibility.

**Act 683** increases the penalty up to \$250,000 for a person who knowingly engages in unfair trade practices within insurance.

## Labor

**Act 330** increases the minimum weekly benefit for unemployment compensation.

**Act 506** establishes a training and education initiative to promote workforce advancement and employment opportunities for public assistance recipients.

## Military & Veterans

**Act 421** aligns state veteran tuition policy with federal law to provide in-state tuition rates to qualified veterans and their dependents.

**Act 373** provides that teachers whose employment was interrupted by military service subsequent to the Vietnam War be placed, upon return to service as a teacher, on the salary schedule as if there was no interruption.

## Transportation

**Act 347** requires background checks of everyone operating a private training or driving instructor school.

**Act 426** designates the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge as a highway safety corridor and requires the DOT to install camera safety devices on the bridge and place signs eastbound and westbound on the bridge

## Motor Vehicles

**Act 578** imposes a road usage fee of \$110 per year on electric vehicles and \$60 per year on hybrid vehicles operated on state highways.

**Act 762** creates a statewide electric vehicle charging network.

**Act 93** and **Act 77** require insurance companies to cover the temporary use of a motor vehicle that is not owned by the policyholder.

**Act 716** creates an alternative for insurers to receive a certificate of ownership and salvage title for motor vehicles declared to be a total loss.

**Act 584** requires anyone wanting to buy or sell catalytic converters to register for a business license and maintain records of each transaction.

**Act 127** creates a crime for the theft of a catalytic converter or engine control module, provides for penalties, and requires dealers to register with their chief of police and sheriff.

## Law Enforcement & Firefighters

**Act 634** requires sustained complaints remain in a law enforcement officer's personnel file, subjects officer personnel files with sustained complaints to public records requests, and provides for whistleblower protection.

**Act 516** extends the time period of the rebuttable presumption relative to occupational disease diagnosis for certain firefighters in the classified fire service who develop cancer post-employment.

**Act 419** Authorizes disclosure of the name and address of a law enforcement officer who has qualified as a candidate for office.

## Governmental Affairs

**Act 35** requires candidates for public office to provide a valid email address when qualifying for office.

**Act 539** requires a hand delivered absentee ballot be returned by the voter or an authorized person to the registrar or registrar employee at the registrar's principal office, branch office, or to an early voting location during the early voting time period.

## Criminal Justice

**Act 568** requires the Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPSC), if known by the department, to notify the victim or victim's family, all persons who have filed a victim registration and notification form, the appropriate law enforcement agency, and the appropriate district attorney no later than 60 days prior to the release of an inmate convicted of a crime of violence or sex offense.

**Act 436** requires DPSC to immediately notify an arrested person that his operator's license may be suspended for failure to honor a written promise to appear or pay an appropriate fine for the offense within 180 days after the date the notice was received.

**Act 750** exempts from parole eligibility any person convicted of an offense on or after January 1, 1997, that is both a crime of violence and a sex offense.

**Act 439** exempts visiting qualifying patients from prosecution for medical marijuana.

**Act 473** prohibits the search without a warrant of a person's place of residence for the odor of marijuana.

**Act 478** prohibits smoking or vaping marijuana in motor vehicles.

**Act 671** ("Millie's Law") increases penalties for the unlawful distribution or dispensing of heroin and fentanyl or carfentanil and adds to the crimes of violence list.

**Act 225** prohibits prosecution for persons seeking medical assistance for a drug-related overdose.

**Act 129** adds the crime of battery of emergency room personnel, emergency services personnel, or a healthcare professional to the list of crimes of violence and enacts the crime of assault on emergency room personnel, emergency services personnel, or healthcare professional and the crime of unlawful disruption of the operation of a healthcare facility.

**Act 518** known as the "Louisiana Firearm Safety Awareness Act," this act creates an online handgun education course at no cost to Louisiana residents.

**Act 484** requires sheriffs to report certain firearm data to the La. Commission on Law Enforcement.

**Act 465** and **Act 702** designate possession of a firearm by a felon as a crime of violence.

**Act 731** restructures the definition of simple robbery to include the taking of anything of value: belonging to another from the person of another or that is in the immediate control of another, by use of force or intimidation, but not armed with a dangerous weapon.

**Act 494** limits the release and dissemination of booking photographs when a person arrested for certain crimes has not been proven guilty.

**Act 219** relates a criminal offender's monetary obligations to their ability to pay.

## Juvenile Justice

**Act 496** Strictly limits solitary confinement time in juvenile facilities to 8 hours with visual and verbal contact every ten minutes, and a mental health practitioner speaking to the subject within each hour to help the juvenile exit solitary as soon as possible.

**Act 220** creates the crime of recruitment of juveniles to commit carjacking.

**Act 175** clarifies that the district attorney has discretion to prosecute youth in juvenile court or to transfer the case for adult prosecution.

**Act 674** requires a child who has been adjudicated of a delinquent act and his parent or legal guardian to participate in a court-approved decision-making course.

## Human Trafficking

**Act 130** creates an expungement process for victims of human trafficking.

**Act 513** provides relative to emergency contraception for victims of sexual assault.

**Act 540** allows sexual assault survivors access to documents from their forensic medical exam.

## Civil Law

**Act 529** prohibits discrimination based on a person's natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle in education, employment, public accommodations, and housing.

**Act 440** establishes a right of action against commercial entities that publish and/or distribute only internet material harmful to minors.

**Act 442** prevents property owners from evicting tenants for 30 days in areas under a federal disaster declaration.

**Act 632** enacts provisions regarding repair contracts following natural disasters including cancellation, payments and refunds, notices, and venue for disputes.

## Industrial Hemp

**Act 462** creates the Industrial Hemp Promotion and Research Program within the Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) to enhance research, education, promotion, facilities, and industrial hemp-related activities throughout the state.

## Medical Marijuana

**Act 438** authorizes dispensing to nonresident patients with qualifying medical conditions and a valid medical marijuana registration in their home jurisdiction.

**Act 444** adds medical psychologists and nurse practitioners with prescriptive authority to the list of healthcare providers who can give a valid therapeutic marijuana recommendation

## Medical Treatments

**Act 676** creates the office on women's health and community health within LDH to coordinate medical policy, treatment programs, and services for women.

## Nursing Home Oversight

**Act 253** requires facilities to have a permanently installed generator or alternate electrical power source with arrangements for sufficient fuel.

**Act 522** Establishes a process for all nursing homes to create a new emergency preparedness plan as a licensing requirement, said plan to

include multiple agency inspections at state and local levels, with notice to be given to LDH any time an evacuation occurs and authorizes LDH to perform a site visit to the shelter location.

**Act 479** Requires all nursing homes statewide to submit an annual emergency plan for LDH approval

## Postsecondary Education

**Act 308** creates seamless transfer of course credits in all higher education pathways.

**Act 205** requires four-year colleges and universities and community colleges to enter into reverse articulation/transfer agreements

## Retirement

**Act 601** and **Act 549** allow retired teachers to be reemployed without benefit suspension if filling a critical shortage vacancy.

## Literacy

**Act 607** requires dyslexia education as a component of teacher education programs.

**Act 622** requires charter schools to report screening results of dyslexia and other impediments to learning.

## Education

**HCR 23** provides for legislative approval of the MFP formula for FY 2022-2023. Includes: an increase in the Supplemental Course Allocation per pupil from \$59 to \$70; a \$2,000 stipend for mentor teachers; an across-the-board pay raise of \$1,500 for certificated personnel and \$750 for non-certificated personnel; and the inclusion of the Special School District in the MFP Formula.

## Elementary & Secondary Education

**Act 588** requires all public school governing authorities to adopt policies regarding installing audio and video cameras in special education classrooms on the request of a student's parent or legal guardian.

**Act 624** requires public school governing authorities to provide high school seniors the opportunity to register to vote.

**Act 472** The Support for Pregnant and Parenting Students Act\* requires policies in public high schools regarding accommodations for attendance, breastfeeding, and child care for students who are pregnant or parenting.