



LOUISIANA SENATE

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STATE SENATOR GERALD LONG: SESSION OFF TO GOOD START

District 31 State Senator Gerald Long (R-Winnfield) and members of the Louisiana State Senate have completed their fourth week of the 2014 Regular Session of the State Legislature. Senator Long says that this year's session, which began on March 10th, is off to good a start and that the legislature is taking steps to become more independent.

"I see a more independent body this year," says Sen. Long, who is serving his second term in the Senate. "As many new members are maturing and Governor Jindal is entering his final term in the Governor's office, we are all gaining a better understanding of our role and responsibility to work together to provide for our people, especially when it relates to extremely important issues such as the state budget."

The annual responsibility of adopting a balanced state budget is always a great item of interest. While it is the governor's task to propose the state budget, it is the obligation of the legislature to ensure that the money is spent wisely. Both the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees have begun budget discussions.

Sen. Long notes, "We are working very hard to make sure that the process of adopting a balanced state budget is a team effort between the legislature and the executive branch."

Sen. Long serves as Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee and is looking forward to a productive year in the committee. He expects to tackle many important issues such as legacy lawsuits and the lawsuit against oil companies over damage to the coast.

He is also anticipating important discussions on various issues in the five other committees on which he serves – the Senate Retirement, Agriculture, Insurance, and Finance Committees, as well as the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

The 2014 Regular Session must end by June 2, 2014.

Citizens can follow the work of Sen. Long and the Louisiana Legislature on the Internet at www.senate.la.gov or www.legis.la.gov where they can read and print bills, review committee schedules and agendas and watch legislative proceedings live or through video archives.

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