



LOUISIANA SENATE

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STATE SENATE BEGINS WORK OF 2012 REGULAR SESSION

FOCUSES ON MAJOR EDUCATION REFORMS, STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM ISSUES & STATE SPENDING PRIORITIES

Members of the Louisiana State Senate began the work of the 2012 Regular Session of the State Legislature at noon Monday, March 12, 2012. At this regular session where lawmakers may consider any matter except specific tax and revenue issues, the expected immediate focus will be on major education reforms, state retirement system issues and state spending reforms.

"We have an ambitious agenda before us, especially as it relates to reforming our state's K-12 education system. It is incumbent upon us in the Senate to seize this opportunity to enact meaningful changes to improve the educational opportunities and the long-term quality of life for all of our children," Senate President John A. Alario, Jr. (R-Westwego) said.



Beyond the education reforms, Senators will also consider proposed changes in state retirement programs impacting most state workers as well as university professors and other higher education employees. The retirement system changes are aimed at placing the system on a more sound financial footing and reducing the impact of retirement system funding needs on other state services and programs.

The state's proposed \$25.5 billion operating budget is under consideration in the House of Representatives. The Senate Finance Committee is scheduled to get an overview of the proposal from Senate Fiscal staff during the first week of the session.

Before the opening of the regular session, state senators pre-filed 613 bills. Members may introduce an additional five bills during the session with an April 3rd deadline for filing the additional measures. The Louisiana State Legislature must complete the work of the 2012 Regular Session no later than 6:00 p.m. Monday, June 4th.

Citizens can follow the work of the 2012 Regular Session 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 the legislature's video archives. Live broadcasts of legislative proceedings can also be seen weekday afternoons on certain local cable stations participating in LaTV, a cooperative effort of the House, the Senate, Louisiana Public Broadcasting and the Louisiana Cable Television Association.

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Louisiana Senate Information on the Internet
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