

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL  
OF THE  
**SENATE**  
OF THE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA

**FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS**

**First Veto Session of the Legislature  
Under the Adoption of the  
Constitution of 1974**

Senate Chamber  
State Capitol  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

The Senate was called to order at 12:10 o'clock P.M. by Hon. Patrick Page Cortez, President of the Senate.

**Morning Hour**

**CONVENING ROLL CALL**

The roll being called, the following members answered to their names:

**PRESENT**

Mr. President	Foil	Peacock
Abraham	Harris	Peterson
Allain	Hensgens	Pope
Barrow	Hewitt	Price
Bernard	Jackson	Reese
Boudreaux	Lambert	Smith
Bouie	Luneau	Talbot
Carter	McMath	Tarver
Cathey	Milligan	Ward
Cloud	Mills, F.	White
Cornick	Mills, R.	Womack
Fesi	Mizell	
Fields	Morris	
Total - 37		

**ABSENT**

Henry  
Johns  
Total - 2

The President of the Senate announced there were 37 Senators present and a quorum.

**Prayer**

The prayer was offered by Bishop Mark Foster, following which the Senate joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**Reading of the Journal**

On motion of Senator Peacock, the reading of the Journal was dispensed with and the Journal of June 10, 2021, was adopted.

**Petitions, Memorials and  
Communications**

The following petitions, memorials and communications were received and read:

**SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

June 28, 2021

To the President of the Senate  
State of Louisiana

Sir:

I have the honor to submit to you the name of Gary Carter Jr., who has been duly elected to fill the vacancy occurring in your Honorable Body caused by the resignation of Troy A. Carter.

Gary Carter Jr. has been officially proclaimed duly and legally elected as State Senator from the 7<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District of the State of Louisiana.

With best wishes,

R. KYLE ARDOIN  
Secretary of the State

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

As Secretary of State, of the State of Louisiana, I do hereby certify that the following candidate was declared elected by the people to the office set above their name:

7<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District Gary M. Carter Jr.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of my Office to be affixed at the City of Baton Rouge on June 28, 2021.

R. KYLE ARDOIN  
Secretary of State

**Motion**

Senator Boudreaux moved that the qualifications of Senator Gary M. Carter Jr. be accepted.

The Chair declared the qualifications of Senator Carter were accepted by the Senate.

**Motion**

Senator Cortez moved that Senator Carter be administered the Oath of Office.

**Administering the Oath of Office**

The oath prescribed by Article X, Section 30, of the Constitution was administered by Secretary of the Senate Yolanda J. Dixon, to the following hereinafter named Senator elect:

**Messages from the Governor**

The following messages from the Governor were received and read as follows:

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

July 2, 2021

Honorable Clay J. Schexnayder Speaker of the House Louisiana House of Representatives Post Office Box 94062 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9062	Honorable Patrick Page Cortez President Louisiana State Senate Post Office Box 94183 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804
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RE: 2021 Regular Session

Dear Speaker Schexnayder and President Cortez:

Please let this letter serve as formal notification that I have acted on all bills sent to me from the 2021 Regular Session. In addition to the bills I returned or signed while the Legislature was in session, I have vetoed an additional 27 bills (House Bill 26, House Bill 38, House Bill 103, House Bill 138, House Bill 148, House Bill 149, House Bill 256, House Bill 263, House Bill 289, House Bill 295, House Bill 349, House Bill 365, House Bill 438, House Bill 498, House Bill 562, House Bill 571, House Bill 597, House Bill 698, House Bill 704, Senate Bill 43, Senate Bill 63, Senate Bill 118, Senate Bill 145, Senate Bill 156, Senate Bill 203, Senate Bill 220, and Senate Bill 224). I have signed all other bills sent to me and submitted them to the Secretary of State. I have also signed House Bill 2 which contains 11 line item vetoes.

Sincerely,  
JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
Governor

**Motion**

Senator Mizell moved to suspend the rules to take up Senate Bill No. 156 out of its regular order.

Without objection, so ordered.

**Messages from the Governor**

The following message from the Governor was received and read as follows:

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF LOUISIANA**

June 29, 2021

Honorable Page Cortez  
Louisiana Senate President  
Louisiana State Senate  
Post Office Box 94183  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Veto of Senate Bill 156 of the 2021 Regular Session

Dear President Cortez:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 156 of the 2021 Regular Session.

I have vetoed this bill for three important reasons, any of which should be sufficient to prevent this bill from becoming the law of Louisiana. However, the first reason prevails over the others. This bill will not be signed into law because it is targeted, unfairly, at children. This legislation will make life more difficult for children who are going through unique challenges gaining acceptance into their schools, communities, and sometimes even their own families. It should be our role, as leaders in this state, to reach out to and lift up these children, rather than to ostracize them. Moreover, the effect of this bill is not so much about how it would affect athletic events, because it will not (as discussed below). Instead, the real harm of this bill is that it would set as the policy of the State of Louisiana that there is something wrong with these children and that they should be treated differently from whom they really are. All of us are sons and daughters of this great state, and we should do and be better than that.

Secondly, this bill is not a real solution nor is there a real problem. When presented to the legislative committees, there was universal agreement that this issue is not, nor has it ever been, experienced in Louisiana. Indeed, the author of the bill repeatedly admitted as much. Instead, this was a bill that came forth from other

states that were attempting to pass, sometimes successfully, similar legislation. In committee testimony, it was made clear that the Louisiana High School Athletics Association (LHSAA) already has policies in place that prevent any unfair advantages in athletic competition.

Lastly, it is clear that if this bill were to become law, it would have a major effect on the economy of Louisiana. Many national conventions and conferences have made it clear that they may not select Louisiana as a destination if this bill were to be signed. Further, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has suggested that championship events which are scheduled to take place in Louisiana (first up, the 2022 Men's Final Four) could be at risk if this bill becomes law. As Louisiana emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had such a negative effect on the tourism industry, we must be mindful of the crushing blow this legislation could pose to our economy.

I have said many times, and believe in my heart, that discrimination is not a Louisiana value. That remains true and is the basis for my decision to veto this bill. However, I also believe that there are many people who may have supported this bill who are good and decent Louisianans trying to do their best to address a complicated issue. Nevertheless, this bill is not the right approach nor is it the right thing to do.

Sincerely,  
JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
Governor

**SENATE BILL NO. 156—**

BY SENATOR MIZELL AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, BACALA, BAGLEY, BEAULLIEU, BOURRIAQUE, BUTLER, CARRIER, WILFORD CARTER, COUSSAN, CREWS, DESHOTEL, DEVILLIER, EDMONDS, EDMONSTON, EMERSON, FARNUM, FIRMENT, FONTENOT, FRIEMAN, GADBERRY, GAROFALO, GOUDEAU, HARRIS, HODGES, HOLLIS, HORTON, IVEY, MIKE JOHNSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, MACK, MCCORMICK, MCFARLAND, MCMAHEN, MIGUEZ, MINCEY, ORGERON, CHARLES OWEN, ROBERT OWEN, PRESSLY, RISER, ROMERO, SCHAMERHORN, SCHLEGEL, SEABAUGH, TARVER, THOMAS, THOMPSON, VILLIO, WHEAT AND WRIGHT

**AN ACT**

To enact Chapter 7-A of Title 4 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 4:441 through 446, relative to athletic activities; to require that schools designate intercollegiate, interscholastic, or intramural athletic teams according to the biological sex of the team members; to provide that teams designated for females are not open to participation by biological males; to provide immunity protections for schools from certain adverse actions; to provide for causes of action; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for definitions; to provide for remedies; and to provide for related matters.

**Motion**

Senator Mizell asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules to reconsider the bill.

**Motion to Override**

Senator Mizell moved to pass Senate Bill No. 156 subsequent to the Governor's veto.

Senator Luneau objected.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll was called with the following result:

**YEAS**

Mr. President	Henry	Morris
Abraham	Hensgens	Peacock
Allain	Hewitt	Pope

Bernard	Lambert	Reese
Cathey	McMath	Talbot
Cloud	Milligan	Ward
Connick	Mills, F.	White
Fesi	Mills, R.	Womack
Foil	Mizell	
Total - 26		

NAYS

Barrow	Fields	Peterson
Boudreaux	Harris	Price
Bouie	Jackson	Smith
Carter	Luneau	Tarver
Total - 12		

ABSENT

Johns  
Total - 1

The Chair declared the bill was passed subsequent to the Governor's veto. Senator Mizell moved to reconsider the vote by which Senate Bill No. 163 was passed subsequent to the Governor's veto and laid that motion on the table.

Motion

Senator Morris moved to suspend the rules to take up Senate Bill No. 118 out of its regular order.

Without objection, so ordered.

Messages from the Governor

The following message from the Governor was received and read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF LOUISIANA

June 29, 2021

Honorable Page Cortez  
Louisiana Senate President  
Louisiana State Senate  
Post Office Box 94183  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Veto of Senate Bill 118 of the 2021 Regular Session

Dear President Cortez:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 118 of the 2021 Regular Session.

This bill has been sold as the "constitutional carry" bill in that its supporters claim it enshrines in statutory law what they believe is already guaranteed by the Louisiana Constitution - the right to carry a concealed weapon without a permit or any training. If this were true, this bill would be unnecessary, as any one of the supporters of this legislation could at any time challenge the constitutionality of the current law that provides for the ability to obtain a concealed carry permit. They have chosen not to do so, and instead have brought this bill to change the law.

I cannot support the version of the bill that passed the legislature. First, this bill removes any training requirements and instead puts in place an optional 60-minute online training course. This is wholly inadequate. Several members of law enforcement, including the Superintendent of Louisiana State Police and the Executive Director of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police testified about the necessity of training, including live fire training, to ensure the safety of the public and the gun owner. In the Senate, an

amendment was offered which would have required this common-sense training to be maintained. However, it was rejected. There is simply no good reason why the State of Louisiana should provide for concealed carry of weapons for people that have no training on how to properly use a gun.

In addition, this bill is in direct conflict with other bills passed by the legislature in this very same session that I have signed into law. Representative Miguez, who claimed to be a strong supporter of Senate Bill 118, authored House Bill 48 on this exact issue. This bill recognizes additional entities that can provide the required training under current law and further adds a provision that provides for "a demonstration by the applicant of shooting proficiency, and safe handling of a handgun." This training that Representative Miguez has placed in law would be removed as a requirement under Senate Bill 118. Obviously Representative Miguez believes that training involving proficiency with and safe handling of a firearm is important and necessary. I agree. The same is true of House Bill 124, which provides for an exception to the crime of illegal carrying of a weapon if the individual has a conceal handgun permit. These two bills, which passed the legislature almost unanimously, are directly contrary to the goals of Senate Bill 118. They also demonstrate that despite the catchy phrase of "constitutional carry," the current law is clearly reasonable and constitutional. It does not need to be effectively repealed to ensure compliance with the Louisiana Constitution.

Sincerely,  
JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
Governor

SENATE BILL NO. 118—

BY SENATORS MORRIS, CATHEY, CLOUD, FESI, HEWITT, ROBERT MILLS, PEACOCK, WHITE AND WOMACK AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, BACALA, CARRIER, CORMIER, CREWS, DEVILLIER, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FIRMENT, FONTENOT, FRIEMAN, GADBERRY, GAROFALO, HARRIS, HORTON, IVEY, MIKE JOHNSON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, MCCORMICK, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, ORGERON, CHARLES OWEN, ROBERT OWEN, RISER, SCHAMERHORN, SEABAUGH, THOMPSON AND WHEAT

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1379.3(B) and (I)(1) and (2), and to enact R.S. 14:95(M) and R.S. 40:1379.3.3, relative to the illegal carrying of weapons; to exempt certain persons from the crime of illegal carrying of weapons under certain circumstances; to provide for concealed weapon permits; to provide for exceptions; to provide relative to the completion of a sixty-minute online concealed handgun education course; to provide relative to a database of licensed firearm and handgun instructors; to provide relative to blood alcohol readings; and to provide for related matters.

Motion

Senator Morris asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules to reconsider the bill.

Motion to Override

Senator Morris moved to pass Senate Bill No. 118 subsequent to the Governor's veto.

Senator Bernard objected.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Mr. President	Hewitt	Peacock
Abraham	Lambert	Pope
Allain	McMath	Reese

July 20, 2021

Cathey	Milligan	Talbot
Cloud	Mills, F.	Ward
Fesi	Mills, R.	White
Henry	Mizell	Womack
Hensgens	Morris	
Total - 23		

NAYS

Barrow	Connick	Luneau
Bernard	Fields	Peterson
Boudreaux	Foil	Price
Bouie	Harris	Smith
Carter	Jackson	Tarver
Total - 15		

ABSENT

Johns  
Total - 1

The Chair declared the motion to pass the bill subsequent to the Governor's veto failed. Senator Bernard moved to reconsider the vote by which the motion to pass the bill subsequent to the Governor's veto failed and laid the motion on the table.

Messages from the Governor

The following message from the Governor was received and read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF LOUISIANA

July 1, 2021

Honorable Page Cortez  
Louisiana Senate President  
Louisiana State Senate  
Post Office Box 94183  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Veto of Senate Bill 43 of the 2021 Regular Session

Dear President Cortez:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 43 of the 2021 Regular Session.

I have vetoed this bill for the same reasons that I vetoed Senate Bill 395 from the 2020 Regular Session, a very similar bill to Senate Bill 43 (see attached). Senate Bill 43 is likely unconstitutional in that it vests regulation of attorney advertising with the legislature and the Attorney General rather than the Louisiana Supreme Court. I did sign into law Senate Bill 115 of the 2020 Regular Session on this same issue, and the Louisiana Supreme Court published rules regarding regulation of attorney advertising just last month.

Those rules can be found at [https://www.lasc.org/press\\_room/press\\_releases/2021/2021-14-Order\\_Amending\\_LA\\_Professional\\_Rules\\_of\\_Conduct\\_Attorney\\_Advertising\\_Rules.pdf](https://www.lasc.org/press_room/press_releases/2021/2021-14-Order_Amending_LA_Professional_Rules_of_Conduct_Attorney_Advertising_Rules.pdf). Should additional changes be needed in the area of attorney advertising, it should be done by the Louisiana Supreme Court in a manner consistent with the Louisiana and United States constitutions.

Sincerely,  
JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
Governor

SENATE BILL NO. 43—  
BY SENATOR PEACOCK

AN ACT

To enact Chapter 62 of Title 51 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 51:3221 through 3223, relative to unfair and deceptive acts or practices; to provide relative to advertisement for legal services relating to prescription drugs or medical devices; to provide relative to the use of certain health information for the purpose of soliciting legal services; to provide for requirements and disclosures in an advertisement; to provide for definitions, terms, conditions, and procedures; to provide for penalties; and to provide for related matters.

Motion

Senator Peacock asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules to reconsider the bill.

Motion

On the motion of Senator Peacock, Senate Bill No. 43 was returned to the Calendar, Subject to Call.

Without objection, so ordered.

Messages from the Governor

The following message from the Governor was received and read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF LOUISIANA

July 1, 2021

Honorable Page Cortez  
Louisiana Senate President  
Louisiana State Senate  
Post Office Box 94183  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Veto of Senate Bill 63 of the 2021 Regular Session

Dear President Cortez:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 63 of the 2021 Regular Session.

This bill is intended to provide clarity on where an absentee ballot may be returned if hand delivered. However, as finally passed, it is now unclear as to whether hand delivery can only take place during the period for conducting early voting or whether hand delivery can take place at an early voting location if it is during the time period for conducting early voting. Access to voting is too important for this uncertainty and so I have vetoed this bill.

Sincerely,  
JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
Governor

SENATE BILL NO. 63—  
BY SENATOR ROBERT MILLS

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1308(B), relative to hand delivery of absentee ballots; to provide for receipt requirements; and to provide for related matters.

Motion

Senator Robert Mills asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules to reconsider the bill.

Motion

On the motion of Senator R. Mills, Senate Bill No. 63 was returned to the Calendar, Subject to Call.

Without objection, so ordered.

Messages from the Governor

The following message from the Governor was received and read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR STATE OF LOUISIANA

June 29, 2021

Honorable Page Cortez Louisiana Senate President Louisiana State Senate Post Office Box 94183 Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Veto of Senate Bill 145 of the 2021 Regular Session

Dear President Cortez:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 145 of the 2021 Regular Session.

This bill purports to enhance access to drug and specialty courts throughout the state through a dedicated funding stream derived from proceeds recovered by the State from any settlement against opioid manufacturers. Although a worthwhile cause, this bill falls woefully short of accomplishing the intended purpose.

Senate Bill 145 would require "all monies received by the state," outside of what is constitutionally required to go through the bond security and redemption fund, to be deposited into the Drug and Specialty Court Fund. The plain language of the bill would give the administrator of the fund (designated as the Office of the Attorney General) sole discretion in making a determination as to what is "considered appropriate" in awarding grants to "eligible applicants," contrary to testimony by the Attorney General in Senate Committee that the role of the Office of the Attorney General would be purely administrative and would only act to disperse money from the fund to the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Office. The legislation fails, however, to define "eligible applicant" or what is "appropriate." Furthermore, while the bill provides for acceptable uses of the money, it does not provide that the acceptable uses are limited to those contained in the bill, meaning the acceptable uses of the money in the fund are without limitation. Practically, the bill requires the legislature to appropriate all of the money in the fund to the Office of the Attorney General and grants sole authority to the office to determine how much and to whom the money is to be dispersed without limitation. Further, it provides for no safeguards or checks that the money will be spent to enhance access to drug and specialty courts throughout the state.

In addition to the fatal defects discussed above, the bill creates confusion between whether costs and expenses of local law enforcement agencies to conduct mandatory drug testing are reimbursable through the fund or may be paid for through a grant from the fund. Reimbursement would require the responsible agency to pay for the expense out of their own operating budget and then seek reimbursement. The same cost-prohibitive problem that exists today for law enforcement agencies to conduct drug testing continues to exist under this reimbursement model. Because the bill fails to define "eligible applicant," it is unclear whether or not a law enforcement agency would be able to apply for a grant through the fund. Even more confusing is that a person who tests positive is

required to be screened for a substance use disorder and also for whether the person is a suitable candidate for participation in a drug court or specialty program, and if the person is determined suitable for the program, then they have to be reassessed to determine whether or not they are suitable, one of the criteria being that they were already determined suitable in the first screening. Except for the twenty-four-hour period after booking within which the mandatory testing has to occur, there is no timeline established for any of the steps along the way. There are too many unknowns and uncertainties for this to be implemented by each jurisdiction equally across the board.

It is important to note that the Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Office runs an extremely successful program. It works now with federal and state partners to ensure accountability, promote best practices in existing specialty court programs, assists with planning efforts of jurisdictions establishing new specialty court programs, awards funds annually to programs around the state, and monitors each program's operations throughout the year. Certainly, the office, which has been charged with these tasks for more than two decades, is in the best position to determine the needs of each jurisdiction when it comes to enhancing access to drug and specialty courts throughout the state. For this reason, and the many others discussed above, I have vetoed Senate Bill 145.

Sincerely, JOHN BEL EDWARDS Governor

SENATE BILL NO. 145—

BY SENATORS WARD, BARROW, BERNARD, CLOUD, CONNICK, FOIL, HEWITT, JACKSON, JOHNS, LAMBERT, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, POPE, REESE, SMITH, TARVER AND WOMACK AND REPRESENTATIVE MARINO AN ACT

To amend and reenact Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 320(D) and (E)(1) and 893(A)(1)(a), (B)(2), (F), (G), and (H) and R.S. 13:5304(B)(3)(b) and to enact Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 893(B)(1)(c) and (I) and 904 and Subpart V of Part II-A of Chapter 1 of Subtitle I of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 39:100.171 and 100.172, relative to mandatory drug testing and screening; to require drug testing and screening of persons arrested for certain offenses; to provide relative to assessment for participation in drug and specialty court programs for certain nonviolent offenders; to provide relative to confidentiality of drug testing and screening records; to establish the Drug and Specialty Court Fund; to provide for the administration and specific uses of the fund; to provide reporting requirements; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Motion

Senator Ward asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules to reconsider the bill.

Motion

On the motion of Senator Ward, Senate Bill No. 145 was returned to the Calendar, Subject to Call.

Without objection, so ordered.

Messages from the Governor

The following message from the Governor was received and read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR STATE OF LOUISIANA

June 29, 2021

July 20, 2021

Honorable Page Cortez
Louisiana Senate President
Louisiana State Senate
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Veto of Senate Bill 203 of the 2021 Regular Session

Dear President Cortez:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 203 of the 2021 Regular Session.

This bill is intended to provide for an exception in the Code of Governmental Ethics for certain appointees on the Capitol Area Groundwater Commission. The bill would both retroactively clear several former members of the Commission from current ethics charges and would allow for a blanket exception to the ethics code going forward for members appointed pursuant to La. R.S. 38:3074(A)(2) and (3).1 While I understand the dilemma for the members with ethics charges who may have inadvertently violated the code of ethics, I do not agree that there should be a prospective exception. The industrial users of the aquifer can provide nominations of individuals that will not run afoul of the ethics code, and my most recent appointees to the Commission do not have this issue. Should the legislature come back in the next session with an exception that is narrowly drafted to cure a previous inadvertent violation, I will support it. I cannot support a broad exception for all members in the future.

1 For La. R.S. 38:3074(A)(3) the bill only applies to the member from a privately owned entity that furnishes water in the district.

Sincerely,
JOHN BEL EDWARDS
Governor

SENATE BILL NO. 203—
BY SENATOR WHITE

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 42:1123(47), relative to certain members of the boards of commissioners of groundwater districts; to provide for exemptions to the Code of Governmental Ethics; to provide for applicability; and to provide for related matters.

Motion

Senator White asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules to reconsider the bill.

Motion to Override

Senator White moved to pass Senate Bill No. 203 subsequent to the Governor's veto.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

- Mr. President Hensgens Peacock
Abraham Hewitt Pope
Allain Lambert Reese
Bernard McMath Talbot
Cathey Milligan Tarver
Cloud Mills, F. White
Fesi Mills, R. Womack
Foil Mizell
Henry Morris
Total - 25

NAYS

- Barrow Connick Luneau
Boudreaux Fields Peterson
Bouie Harris Price
Carter Jackson Smith
Total - 12

ABSENT

- Johns Ward
Total - 2

The Chair declared the motion to pass the bill subsequent to the Governor's veto failed. Senator Carter moved to reconsider the vote by which the motion to pass the bill subsequent to the Governor's veto failed and laid that motion on the table.

Messages from the Governor

The following message from the Governor was received and read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF LOUISIANA

July 1, 2021

Honorable Page Cortez
Louisiana Senate President
Louisiana State Senate
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Veto of Senate Bill 220 of the 2021 Regular Session

Dear President Cortez:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 220 of the 2021 Regular Session.

This bill requires the legislative auditor to annually audit state, local, and federal elections. The legislative auditor is already tasked with performing an audit of the Secretary of State on a routine schedule, at least once every seven years. This bill is an amalgamation of legislative overreach and an expansion of government in that the constitution names the Secretary of State the chief election officer of the state and requires him to administer all election laws. The legislative auditor has had the ability, for decades, to perform an audit of the legal compliance of statutory election law by the Secretary of State and has chosen not to, while still performing financial audits of the State Department as required. While costs should not be the only consideration in discussing election integrity, it certainly is a consideration in this instance when there has been no legitimate allegation that statutory election processes have not been followed. Discussion of the fiscal note for this bill focused only on the added cost for the legislative auditor. It failed to discuss the fact that the cost of every audit performed on local elections would be borne by the Secretary of State. For the legislature to encroach on the constitutional authority of the Secretary of State as part of the Executive branch and mandate the legislative auditor audit state, local, and federal elections annually not only poses a separation of powers issue but also adds an additional layer of bureaucracy in the elections process.

Sincerely,
JOHN BEL EDWARDS
Governor

SENATE BILL NO. 220—

BY SENATOR CLOUD AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, CREWS, DESHOTEL, EDMONDS, GAROFALO, HORTON, ORGERON, CHARLES OWEN AND WRIGHT

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:158, 403, 1311(D)(4)(b), and 1312(D) and to enact R.S. 24:513(D)(7), relative to the legislative auditor; to provide relative to examinations, audits, and reviews of elections; to provide for the submission and presentation of reports to certain legislative committees; to provide for the retention of election records subject to examination by the legislative auditor; to provide for terms, conditions, and procedures; and to provide for related matters.

Motion

Senator Cloud asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules to reconsider the bill.

Motion to Override

Senator Cloud moved to pass Senate Bill No. 220 subsequent to the Governor's veto.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Table with 3 columns: Name, Henry, Morris. Includes Mr. President Abraham, Allain, Cathey, Cloud, Fesi, Foil, and Total - 21.

NAYS

Table with 3 columns: Name, Fields, Peterson. Includes Barrow, Bernard, Boudreaux, Bouie, Carter, and Total - 15.

ABSENT

Table with 3 columns: Name, Johns, Mizell. Includes Connick and Total - 3.

The Chair declared the motion to pass the bill subsequent to the Governor's veto failed. Senator Luneau moved to reconsider the vote by which the motion to pass the bill subsequent to the Governor's veto failed and laid that motion on the table.

Messages from the Governor

The following message from the Governor was received and read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR STATE OF LOUISIANA

July 1, 2021

Honorable Page Cortez Louisiana Senate President Louisiana State Senate Post Office Box 94183 Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Veto of Senate Bill 224 of the 2021 Regular Session

Dear President Cortez:

Please be advised that I have vetoed Senate Bill 224 of the 2021 Regular Session.

This bill, as finally passed, would require more stringent requirements to make application to vote absentee by mail than what is currently required to actually vote absentee by mail. The crux of the fate of this bill lies with Louisiana election law being changed in the haste of the final days and without proper debate creating it more difficult for the voters of Louisiana to vote absentee by mail. Louisiana election law being changed overnight without proper vetting is an incredible disservice to the people of the state. We should strive to make access to voting easier for voters, not create barriers.

Sincerely, JOHN BEL EDWARDS Governor

SENATE BILL NO. 224—

BY SENATOR CLOUD

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 18:1306(E)(1)(f), 1307(A)(9), 1309(D)(1)(b), 1313(E) and (G)(2), 1313.1(E) and (G)(2), and 1315(B) and to enact R.S. 18:1306(E)(1)(g) and (h) and 1307(A)(10), relative to absentee by mail and early voting ballots; to provide for absentee by mail ballot certificate requirements; to provide for absentee by mail ballot application requirements; to provide for definitions; to provide for early voting identity verification; to provide for tabulation and counting of ballots; to specify the criminal penalties applicable to certain prohibited conduct relative to the tabulation and counting of ballots process; to provide for challenge of a ballot; and to provide for related matters.

Motion

Senator Cloud asked for and obtained a suspension of the rules to reconsider the bill.

Motion to Override

Senator Cloud moved to pass Senate Bill No. 224 subsequent to the Governor's veto.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called with the following result:

YEAS

Table with 3 columns: Name, Henry, Mizell. Includes Mr. President Abraham, Allain, Bernard, Cathey, Cloud, Fesi, Foil, and Total - 24.

NAYS

Table with 3 columns: Name, Fields, Peterson. Includes Barrow, Boudreaux, Bouie, Carter, and Total - 12.

July 20, 2021

**ABSENT**

Connick                      Johns                      Ward  
Total - 3

The Chair declared the motion to pass the bill subsequent to the Governor's veto failed. Senator Tarver moved to reconsider the vote by which the motion to pass the bill subsequent to the Governor's veto failed and laid that motion on the table.

**ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL**

The roll was called with the following result:

**PRESENT**

Mr. President	Foil	Morris
Abraham	Harris	Peacock
Allain	Henry	Peterson
Barrow	Hensgens	Pope
Bernard	Hewitt	Price
Boudreaux	Jackson	Reese
Bouie	Lambert	Smith
Carter	Luneau	Talbot
Cathey	McMath	Tarver
Cloud	Milligan	Ward
Connick	Mills, F.	White
Fesi	Mills, R.	Womack
Fields	Mizell	
Total - 38		

**ABSENT**

Johns  
Total - 1

**Leaves of Absence**

The following leaves of absence were asked for and granted:

Johns    1 Day

**Adjournment**

On motion of Senator Talbot, at 2:22 o'clock P.M. the Senate adjourned until Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 4:00 o'clock P.M.

The President of the Senate declared the Senate adjourned.

YOLANDA J. DIXON  
Secretary of the Senate

DIANE O' QUIN  
Journal Clerk