Monday 5/22/17

HB 637 - Rep. Stokes
This bill seeks to overhaul sales tax exemptions. As filed, the bill would have required Louisiana companies to pay the state sales tax on manufacturing machinery and equipment, then request a refund from the state. The House Appropriations Committee amended this provision out of the bill, then passed it to the floor. LABI is neutral on this bill.

Neutral

Tuesday 5/23/17
HB 94 - Rep. Jimmy Harris
This bill authorizes the creation of a reentry division in all district courts. It was debated on the Senate floor Tuesday and passed by a vote of 35-0. The bill returns to the House for concurrence in some minor Senate amendments. LABI supports this bill.

Support
HB 461 - Rep. Stuart Bishop
This bill re-establishes a severance tax exemption for production from a certified inactive oil and gas well for a 50% tax exemption for 10 years, and establishes an exemption for production from a certified orphan well for a 75% exemption for 10 years, both exemptions would be effective from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2022. It was debated on the House floor Tuesday and passed by a vote of 97-0. LABI supports this bill.
Support

HB 555 - Rep. Jackson
This bill provides a corporate income tax deduction for dividend income received by certain regulated groups of entities. It was heard on the House floor Tuesday where it passed by a vote of 95-0. LABI supports this bill.
Support

HB 592 - Rep. Kirk Talbot
This bill provides for the creation of a pharmacy formulary for the treatment of injured workers in workers' compensation claims. It was debated on the House floor Tuesday where it passed by a vote of 58-36. LABI supports this bill.
Support

SB 75 - Sen. Mills
This bill provides relative to the health professional licensing boards created within the Louisiana Department of Health. It was heard in the House Health and Welfare Committee where it was deferred by a vote of 5-7. LABI supported this bill.
Support

SB 163 - Sen. Mizell
This bill provides an exemption from the requirement that state prisons purchase goods from Prison Enterprises, if the goods can be purchased for less in the parish in which the facility is located. It was heard in the House Administration of Criminal Justice Committee Tuesday where it was reported favorably as amended. LABI supports this bill.
Support

SB 167 - Sen. Barrow
This bill would require certain violators of air permits to provide free public health screenings. It was heard in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee where it was voluntarily deferred. LABI opposes this bill.
Oppose
SB 187 - Sen. Hewitt
This bill provides for implementation of an evidence-based budget process for certain programs. It was heard in the Senate Finance Committee Tuesday where it was reported favorably as amended. LABI supports this bill.

Support

SB 209 - Sen. Walsworth
This bill provides for the Louisiana Early College Opportunity Act. It was heard in the Senate Finance Committee Tuesday where it was reported favorably as amended by a vote of 7-1. LABI supports this bill.

Support

SB 215 - Sen. Tarver
This bill provides relative to the enrollment procedures of certain charter schools. It was heard in the House Education Committee Tuesday where it was reported favorably as amended. LABI supports this bill.

Support

SB 225 - Sen. Hewitt
This bill creates the Louisiana Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Advisory Council (LaSTEM). It was heard in the House Education Committee Tuesday where it was reported favorably. LABI supports this bill.

Support

Wednesday 5/24/17

HB 119 - Rep. Ivey
This bill requires the state treasurer to establish and maintain "Louisiana Checkbook", a Louisiana fiscal transparency website as a source of information for state expenditures. It was heard on the House floor Wednesday where it passed by a vote of 94-0. LABI supports this bill.

Support

SB 153 - Sen. Carter
This bill establishes a state minimum wage law and increases the rate to $8.50. It was heard today in the Senate Finance Committee Wednesday where it failed to pass by a vote of 3-7. LABI opposed this bill.

Oppose
LABI's Jim Patterson Speaks in Opposition to Minimum Wage Bill in Senate Finance Committee Wednesday.

Senator Hewitt Speaks in Opposition to Minimum Wage Bill in Senate Finance Wednesday.

HB 436 - Rep. Talbot
This bill requires the disclosure of certain pharmacy claims data and prescription drug price information. It was debated on the House floor Wednesday, amendments were adopted and the bill passed by a vote of 98-0. The amendments removed LABI's opposition. LABI is now neutral on this bill.

Neutral
HB 444- Rep. Seabaugh

This Constitutional Amendment establishes an ad valorem tax exemption for property that is subject to a cooperative endeavor agreement that requires the property owner to make Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). It was debated on the House floor Wednesday and failed to pass by a vote of 63-29. The author stated his intention to bring the bill up for another vote later in the session. LABI supports this bill.

Support


HB 445 - Rep. Seabaugh
This bill is the enabling language in statute for HB 444, establishing a tax exemption on property subject to cooperative endeavor agreements between local governments and businesses that require Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). It was debated on the House floor Wednesday where it passed by a vote of 64-27. LABI supports this bill.

Support

HB 584 - Rep. Leger
This bill creates the La. Early Childhood Education Fund and provides for awards to local entities for certain childhood education programs. It was debated on the House floor Wednesday and passed as amended by a vote of 94-0. LABI supports this bill.

Support

Thursday 5/25/17

HB 133 - Rep. Edmonds
This bill requires the public postsecondary management boards to develop and submit to the legislature plans relative to centralization and cooperative unification. This bill was heard in the Senate Education Committee Thursday and was reported favorably. LABI supports this bill.

Support

HB 178 - Rep. Simon
This bill provides that educator preparation programs approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) are not proprietary schools and thus not subject to requirements pertaining to licensing by the Board of Regents. This bill was heard in the Senate Education Committee Thursday and was reported favorably. LABI supports this bill.

Support

HB 541 - Rep. Steve Carter
This bill requires students' Individual Graduation Plans (IGP) to include plans on how to graduate early from high school and provides for using savings as a result of such early graduation to fund scholarships for such students and for administration of the Child Care Assistance Program. This bill was heard in the Senate Education Committee Thursday and was reported favorably. LABI supports this bill.

Support

HB 616 - Rep. Thomas
This bill limits student testing time on state assessments per school year. Requires public school governing authorities to review benchmarks and interim assessments. It was heard on the House floor Thursday where it passed by a vote of 75-0. LABI supports this bill.

Support