

CLOSING GAVEL OF REGULAR SESSION: AIA LOUISIANA SEES BENEFIT TO ARCHITECTS STATEWIDE

The Louisiana legislative session adjourned sine die June 23rd at 6 p.m. Most legislators, staff and lobbyists agree that while still very hectic, this year's regular session was less contentious than most in recent years. For the most part, nothing glaringly detrimental to the business community was enacted this year. The lack of highly contentious issues can be attributed to a handful of reasons, such as: this was a fiscal-only session, there was a \$1.6 billion deficit, the governor announced very early on he would veto attempts to increase taxes, and it's an election year.

Despite all the ranting about the severe \$1.6 billion deficit, the budget finally passed and was sent to the governor two days prior to final adjournment. That action put to rest the rumors of a potential special session to resolve budget issues. Before final passage of the \$25 billion budget, the House ultimately agreed to Senate amendments that restored several cuts made in the House and also allowed for use of certain "one-time" non-recurring revenue. The 2011-2012 Fiscal Year began July 1.

The times they are a changin'

With the legislative session in the rear view mirror and a slew of fall elections on the horizon, campaign season will soon hit full speed ahead. Qualifying for state legislative races is September 6th-8th. Primary elections are set for October 22nd and general elections (runoffs) will take place November 19th.

Four years ago the first-ever wave of term limits ushered in substantial changes in the legislature. As a reminder, the legislature is comprised of 39 Senators and 105 members of the House of Representatives. Just over 50 percent of the current legislature has four years (or less) of legislative experience. This figure is greater in the House, since the Senate contains many members who previously served in the House. Another round of term-limits plus the impact of new district maps will cause the legislature to look very different (once again) after this fall's election cycle. Following is an overview of imminent changes set to take place:

Term limits are forcing out six Senators:

1. Senate President Joel Chaisson, D-Destrehan
2. Butch Gautreaux, D-Morgan City
3. Rob Marionneaux, D-Livonia
4. Joe McPherson, D-Woodworth
5. Mike Michot, R-Lafayette
6. Willie Mount, D-Lake Charles

Two Senators announced they are retiring:

1. Julie Quinn, R-Metairie,
2. Buddy Shaw, R-Shreveport

Now that the new Senate districts are approved by DOJ, one race this fall pits Sen. Cynthia Willard-Lewis, D-New Orleans, against Sen. J.P. Morrell, D-New Orleans. Therefore, at least nine current Senate members will not be back next year.

Term limits are forcing 11 out state Representatives:

1. Speaker of the House Jim Tucker, R-Terrytown
2. Damon Baldone, D-Houma
3. Jean Doerge, D-Minden
4. Rick Gallot, D-Ruston
5. Nita Hutter, R-Slidell
6. Michael Jackson, I-Baton Rouge
7. Kay Katz, R-Monroe
8. Tom McVea, R-Jackson
9. Gary Smith, Jr., D-Norco
10. Jane Smith, R-Bossier City
11. Ernest Wooton, R-Belle Chasse

At least 12 House members have announced they are retiring early:

1. Bobby Badon, D-Carencro
2. Hollis Downs, R-Ruston
3. Noble Ellington, R-Winnsboro
4. Reed Henderson, D-Chalmette
5. Walker Hines, R-New Orleans
6. Rosalind Jones, D-Monroe
7. Juan Lafonta, D-New Orleans
8. Nickie Monica, R-LaPlace
9. Chris Roy, D-Alexandria
10. Mert Smiley, R-Port Vincent
11. Ricky Templet, R-Gretna
12. Bodi White, R-Denham Springs

Redistricting will pit a few incumbents against one another, including:

- Rep. Nick Lorusso, R-New Orleans, versus Rep. John LaBruzzo, R-Metairie
- Rep. Charmaine Stiaes, D-New Orleans, versus Rep. Wesley Bishop, D-New Orleans

Therefore, at least 25 House members will not be back next year (at least they will not be serving in the House...a few of those listed above intend to run for the Senate this fall). Also, a few incumbent House members will face serious opponents as a result of new boundary lines of the districts they will seek to represent.

As a reminder, all statewide elected officials are up for reelection this year; following is a list of the incumbents:

- Gov. Jindal
- Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, R-Baton Rouge
- Attorney General Buddy Caldwell, R-Tallulah
- Treasurer John Kennedy, R-Mandeville
- Interim Secretary of State Tom Schedler, R-Metairie
- Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry Mike Strain, R-Covington
- Commissioner of Insurance Jim Donelon, R-Metairie

At this point it appears the only two statewide races that will be competitive are those for lieutenant governor and secretary of state.

Lieutenant Governor's race officially two weeks ago

As expected, Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser officially announced that he is challenging fellow Republican and incumbent Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne for that post. Since Nungesser's announcement, the two have been trading barbs through the press. This week campaign finance reports reveal that Nungesser has \$1million in his campaign account; half of it his own personal funds. Dardenne reported roughly \$524,000 in his campaign coffers; his funds came only from donors.

Sec. of State race expected to heat up soon

Incumbent Secretary of State Tom Schedler, R-Metairie, succeeded Jay Dardenne for this post when Dardenne was elected lieutenant governor last fall. Schedler is running for a full term this fall, but he will face a few competitors. Rep. Walker Hines, R-New Orleans, is resigning from his legislative seat after serving one term. Hines, who is in his mid-20's, claims to have solid support from New Orleans area business community. Caroline Fayard, D-New Orleans, is running for secretary of state as well. Fayard lost to Jay Dardenne in last fall's lieutenant governor's special election. However, Fayard mustered 40 percent of the vote as a political newcomer. The two remaining wild cards in this race are term-limited Speaker of the House Jim Tucker, R-Terrytown, and Department of Natural Resources Sec. Scott Angelle, R-Breaux Bridge. Tucker has expressed interest in running for the job but has not formally announced. Angelle has captured quite a bit of attention the last couple years as he wore many hats for the Jindal administration (DNR secretary, Jindal's legislative liaison, and Jindal's appointment as temporary Lt. Gov. prior to Dardenne's election). If Tucker and Angelle enter this race, it will quickly become one to watch.

Chinese Proverb: "May you live in interesting times."

The following are all of the bills that AIA Louisiana tracked during the session.

HB 15	Richard	Provides for a 10% reduction of all state professional, personal, consulting, and social service contracts.
	Last Action:	6-20-11 S Returned to the calendar - subject to call
HB 34	Brossett	Provides relative to the creation of a statewide planning and mapping system for public buildings.
	Last Action:	6-29-11 G Effective (Act: 345)
HB 132	Chandler	Provides relative to the authority of the state fire marshal.
	Last Action:	5-18-11 H Failed to pass (Vote: Y: 30/N: 62)
HB 147	Roy	Provides an income tax credit for certain small employers which pay health insurance premiums for employees and reduces the amount of the premium tax credit for insurers which invest their assets in La.
	Last Action:	6- 1-11 H Meeting set for At Adj., House Ways and Means
HB 175	Talbot	Requires employers to use the E-Verify program to verify the citizenship status of applicants. Became HB 646.
	Companions:	HB 646 (Substitute)
	Last Action:	6- 7-11 H Set on the House Orders
HB 182	Jackson, G.	Extends the length of time relative to the utilization of design-build contracts.
	Last Action:	8-15-11 G Effective (Act: 170)
HB 192	White	Authorizes public entities to require electronic bidding.
	Last Action:	8-15-11 G Effective (Act: 81)
HB 242	Hines	Constitutional amendment to repeal provision authorizing the state to levy a tax on net incomes and adds a provision prohibiting the state from levying a tax upon the income of individuals or corporations.
	Last Action:	5-16-11 H Meeting set for 9:00 A.M. RM. 6, House Ways and Means
HB 260	Monica	Transfers the La. State Uniform Construction Code Council to the Dept. of Insurance.
	Last Action:	5- 2-11 H Committee hearing cancelled House Commerce
HB 271	Fannin	Provides relative to the state uniform construction code.
	Last Action:	8-15-11 G Effective (Act: 391)
HB 273	Hutter	Authorizes local governments to accept affidavits regarding windblown storm debris shutters.
	Last Action:	8-15-11 G Effective (Act: 92)
HB 298	Talbot	Authorizes a tax credit for individuals and corporations which donate to certain school tuition organizations.

	Last Action:	5- 5-11 H Committee hearing cancelled House Ways and Means
HB 310	Henry	Provides with respect to the secretary's approval of bond-financed local contracts.
	Last Action:	6-16-11 S Committee hearing cancelled Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs
HB 319	Simon	Authorizes a credit against individual income tax for the owner of a newly constructed one- or two-family dwelling which includes certain accessible and barrier-free design elements.
	Last Action:	8-15-11 G Effective (Act: 392)
HB 342	Edwards	Provides for the verification of citizenship of employees engaged in public contract work.
	Last Action:	8-15-11 G Effective (Act: 376)
HB 348	Leger	Increases the amount of the tax credit for the rehabilitation of certain residential structures and extends the taxable periods in which the tax credit applies.
	Last Action:	7- 7-11 G Effective (Act: 412)
HB 349	Leger	Extends applicability of the tax credit for the rehabilitation of certain historic structures.
	Last Action:	6-16-11 S Returned to the calendar - subject to call
HB 362	Simon	Provides relative to exemptions to the licensing and registration requirement for architects.
	Last Action:	6- 7-11 G Effective (Act: 18)
HB 365	Howard	Revises public bid provisions.
	Last Action:	8-15-11 G Effective (Act: 281)
HB 371	Tucker	Authorizes issuance of the Brownfields Investor Tax Credit to eligible taxpayers.
	Last Action:	6-21-11 S Set on the Senate Orders
HB 378	Ellington	Provides relative to payments made under public contracts.
	Last Action:	8-15-11 G Effective (Act: 184)
HB 408	Ponti	Provides relative to the authority of the La. State Uniform Construction Code Council.
	Last Action:	5- 2-11 H Committee hearing cancelled House Commerce
HB 427	Guinn	Repeals exemption to licensing requirement for contractors bidding work partially funded by the federal government.
	Last Action:	8-15-11 G Effective (Act: 107)
HB 449	Abramson	Specifies that discussions regarding the award of a public contract must be held in an open meeting.

	Last Action:	8-15-11 G Effective (Act: 188)
HB 468	Jackson, G.	Provides for minimum goals for the La. Initiative for Small Entrepreneurships (the Hudson Initiative) and the Veteran Initiative.
	Companions:	HB 1291 (Refiled from 36R Session)
	Last Action:	4-15-11 H Referred to House Committee on House Appropriations
HB 471	Guillory, M.	Provides with respect to certain plumbing used to convey water for human consumption.
	Last Action:	1- 1-13 G Effective (Act: 362)
HB 472	Jones, R.	Provides relative to the lobbying of local government.
	Last Action:	12- 1-11 G Effective (Act: 190)
HB 488	Greene	Prohibits the Dept. of Revenue from collecting tax on any transaction for which no clear intent to tax by the legislature exists unless the department promulgates a rule indicating its intention to do so.
	Last Action:	6-13-11 H Meeting set for 9:00 A.M., House Ways and Means
HB 493	Lorusso	Provides relative to the procurement of services by public entities that are not subject to the State Procurement Code.
	Last Action:	6-20-11 S Returned to the calendar - subject to call
HB 536	Simon	Provides relative to equal access to governmental and public facilities for the disabled community.
	Last Action:	8-15-11 G Effective (Act: 398)
HB 540	Aubert	Allows for the Small Engineering Consultant Program within DOTD to be open to certain businesses.
	Last Action:	8-15-11 G Effective (Act: 197)
HB 543	Leger	Authorizes ports to use the design-build method on certain construction projects.
	Last Action:	6- 9-11 S Meeting set for At Adj. RM. E, Senate Transportation
HB 549	Tucker	Provides relative to the La. Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas Act including additional operational autonomies to be granted to public postsecondary education institutions and reporting requirements, and the Bd. of Regents.
	Last Action:	7-12-11 G Effective (Act: 418)
HB 573	Willmott	Enacts the Procurement Preference of Domestic Products Act.
	Last Action:	7- 1-11 G Effective (Act: 369)

HB 603	Burrell	Extends applicability of the tax credit for the rehabilitation of certain residential structures and extends the tax credit to rehabilitated residential structures located in a federal designated HUBZone.
	Last Action:	5- 9-11 H Meeting set for 9:00 A.M. RM. 6, House Ways and Means
HB 604	Burrell	Extends applicability of the tax credit for the rehabilitation of certain historic structures and extends the tax credit to rehabilitated structures located in a federal designated HUBZone.
	Last Action:	5- 9-11 H Meeting set for 9:00 A.M. RM. 6, House Ways and Means
HB 615	Simon	Adds geothermal energy systems to systems eligible for the wind or solar energy systems tax credit.
	Last Action:	5-24-11 H Meeting set for At Adj. RM. 6, House Ways and Means
HB 633	Greene	Repeals the state tax levied on the Louisiana taxable income of corporations beginning in January 1, 2012.
	Last Action:	5-19-11 H Returned to the calendar - subject to call
SB 63	Murray	Extends income and corporation franchise tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic structures.
	Last Action:	7- 6-11 G Effective (Act: 409)
SB 76	Martiny	Prohibits public entities from requiring certain agreements related to labor organizations as a condition of bidding on projects.
	Last Action:	6-24-11 G Effective (Act: 134)
SB 153	Murray	Requires the inclusion of addenda with the bid form on public works contracts conducted by the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board.
	Last Action:	6-29-11 G Effective (Act: 338)
SB 221	Morrell	Requires reporting of tax dollars not collected each fiscal year due to tax credits and exemptions as a line item in the annual General Appropriations Bill.
	Last Action:	6- 8-11 S Meeting set for At Adj. RM. A-B, Senate Finance
SB 234	Willard-Lewis	Provides a credit against state income tax for sales taxes paid by contractors of state public works projects purchasing materials for the public work in-state.
	Last Action:	4-15-11 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs
SB 235	Willard-Lewis	Provides for credit from income tax for eligible costs and expenses incurred during the rehabilitation of certain residential structures in storm impacted or economically depressed areas.

Last Action: 4-15-11 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs

[SB 238](#)

[Peterson](#)

Requires legislative approval of certain contracts and action plans related to hurricane recovery.

Last Action: 4-15-11 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Finance

[SB 241](#)

[Chaisson](#)

Provides relative to the LA Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas Act including additional operational autonomies to be granted to public postsecondary education institutions.

Last Action: 5- 5-11 S Meeting set for At Adj. HAINKEL RM., Senate Education

[SB 242](#)

[Appel](#)

Provides relative to change orders and splitting of profits, fees, and commissions in public contracts.

Last Action: 8-15-11 G Effective (Act: 343)

[SB 245](#)

[Willard-Lewis](#)

Provides a tax credit against individual state income tax for the amount of sales tax paid by homeowners when purchasing green materials for residential home building or remodeling.

Last Action: 5-31-11 S Meeting set for 10:30 A.M. HAINKEL RM., Senate Revenue and Fiscal Affairs

	All	Track
Total Bills:	48	0