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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.



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Gary M. Carter

Louisiana
Senator, SD-007 (D)

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Lifetime
Freedom
Score

LA Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. HB454 Medicaid Expansion (Passed 34 to 2 on 6/2/2025).	Requires Medicaid to cover doula services before, during, and after childbirth.		YES
	Estimated cost per household: -\$0.54/year.		✗
2. HB289 Liability Protection for Firearm Manufacturers (Passed 27 to 9 on 6/2/2025).	Expands liability protections to include firearm and ammunition manufacturers, distributors, and sellers.		NO
			✗
3. HB425 Coerced-abortion Prohibition (Passed 30 to 7 on 6/8/2025).	Strengthens laws against coercing abortions.		NO
			✗
4. HB695 Real Money (Passed 39 to 0 on 6/9/2025).	Updates state law to recognize as legal tender any gold or silver coin, specie, or bullion recognized by the U.S. government.		YES
			★
5. HB554 Banning IDs for Illegals (Passed 28 to 11 on 6/9/2025).	Prohibits the Office of Motor Vehicles from issuing driver's licenses or state IDs to non-U.S. citizens or lawful noncitizen residents.		NO
			✗
6. SB8 Reclaiming Legislative Power (Passed 28 to 9 on 6/11/2025).	Proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the Louisiana Legislature—rather than only the State Civil Service Commission—to add certain state civil-service positions from the unclassified service, and give it sole authority to remove such positions.		NO
			✗

Scorecard Votes: 17%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Medicaid Expansion

HB454 requires Medicaid to cover doula services before, during, and after childbirth. Coverage must include at least five prenatal visits, three postpartum visits, and labor and birth assistance, each lasting 90 minutes.

The Louisiana State Senate passed HB454 on June 2, 2025 by a vote of 34 to 2. We have assigned pluses to the nays because neither healthcare nor social welfare is the legitimate object of government. Medicaid, as with many other “entitlement programs,” discriminatorily and unjustly provides “eligible” low-income persons, who have little or no tax liability, with government funds at the expense of other hard-working citizens.

2. Liability Protection for Firearm Manufacturers

HB289 expands liability protections to include firearm and ammunition manufacturers, distributors, and sellers. Courts must award attorney fees, court costs, and related expenses to defendants if such lawsuits are improperly filed.

The Louisiana State Senate passed HB289 on June 2, 2025 by a vote of 27 to 9. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill correctly places liability on those who commit crimes, not on manufacturers whose products are lawfully made and sold. HB289 shields firearm and ammunition producers from abusive lawsuits designed to bankrupt the industry and effectively nullify the Second Amendment through the courts.

3. Coerced Abortion Prohibition

HB425 strengthens laws against coercing abortions. It adds to the crime of extortion any threat made to compel a pregnant woman to have an abortion.

The Louisiana State Senate passed HB425 on June 8, 2025 by a vote of 30 to 7. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill protects both mothers and their preborn children from violent pressure to end an innocent life. Coercion to commit an abortion is rightly treated as a grave offense, because abortion itself is the deliberate taking of a human life. The care of human life—not its destruction—is the first duty of civil government, and the right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and “unalienable” right referenced in the Declaration of Independence.

4. Real Money

HB695 updates state law to recognize as legal tender any gold or silver coin, specie, or bullion recognized by the U.S. government, as well as gold-backed debit instruments that can convert gold stored in a depository into currency.

The Louisiana State Senate passed HB695 on June 9, 2025 by a vote of 39 to 0. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill is an important step toward restoring constitutional money and reestablishing the role of gold and silver as legal tender, in accordance with the U.S. Constitution.

5. Banning IDs for Illegals

HB554 prohibits the Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) from issuing driver’s licenses or state IDs to non-U.S. citizens or lawful noncitizen residents unless the credential includes a restriction code marking their status. The OMV must mail these individuals a multilingual notice explaining that noncitizens are prohibited from registering or voting in Louisiana and that doing so is a felony.

The Louisiana State Senate passed HB554 on June 9, 2025 by a vote of 28 to 11. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because persons unlawfully present in the United States ought not to be permitted sanctuary or residency in Louisiana, let alone be considered eligible for a state-issued form of identification or license. Rather than pursue blatantly unconstitutional and anti-American policies that undermine the rule of law and erode the value of citizenship, each of the several states should use its powers reserved under the 10th Amendment to end the illegal-migrant invasion and provide for the public safety.

6. Reclaiming Legislative Power

SB8 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the Louisiana Legislature—rather than only the State Civil Service Commission—to add certain state civil-service positions from the unclassified service, and give it sole authority to remove such positions. Currently, only commissions can make such changes through rules. If approved by voters, this amendment would give lawmakers direct authority over which state officers, employees, or positions are exempt from civil-service protections.

The Louisiana State Senate passed SB8 on June 11, 2025 by a vote of 28 to 9. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the amendment reins in the improper delegation of legislative authority to unelected bureaucrats and unconstitutional civil-service commissions. SB8 would restore to the Legislature the power to determine which positions are included in or exempt from the classified service—a power that belongs with elected representatives, not autonomous administrative bodies. By reclaiming this authority, the bill strengthens accountability, curbs bureaucratic overreach, and helps restore a republican form of government guaranteed by Article IV, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution.