

SENATE BILL NO. 46

BY SENATORS THEUNISSEN, BROOME, CASSIDY, CHAISSON, MOUNT, QUINN
AND ULLO AND REPRESENTATIVES ARNOLD, GALLOT,
LAFONTA, LANCASTER, MONTGOMERY, SMILEY AND
WILLIAMS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 24:973(A)(6) and 974 and to enact R.S. 24:973(A)(7) and 973.1,
3 relative to civic education; to establish the Legislative Youth Advisory Council; to
4 provide for the duties of the council; to provide for membership; to provide for
5 council administration; to require an annual report; to provide relative to funding; to
6 provide for the duties and functions of the Louisiana Commission on Civic
7 Education; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 24:973(A)(6) and 974 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
10 24:973(A)(7) and 973.1 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §973. Powers and functions

12 A. The commission shall:

13 * * *

14 (6) Oversee the administrative needs and the implementation of the
15 identified goals and objectives of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

16 (7) Prepare and provide an annual report of activities to the governor and to
17 the legislature.

18 * * *

19 §973.1. Legislative Youth Advisory Council; purpose, membership, duties,
20 administration, report

21 A. Purpose. The Legislative Youth Advisory Council, hereinafter
22 referred to as "council," is hereby established to examine and facilitate
23 communication between youth and the legislature regarding issues of

1 importance to youth, including but not limited to education, employment,
2 strategies to increase youth participation in local and state government, safe
3 environments for youth, substance abuse, underage drinking, emotional and
4 physical health, poverty, litter and environmental control, driver's licenses, and
5 youth access to state and local services.

6 B. Membership. (1) The council shall consist of the following youth
7 members:

8 (a)(i) Members appointed by the commission. Two youth members shall
9 be appointed by the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education from each
10 congressional district in a manner which reflects the diversity of the state to the
11 greatest extent practicable. Youth members shall possess the qualifications as
12 provided in Subsection C of this Section.

13 (ii) The commission shall select members pursuant to this Subparagraph
14 from among youths recommended by any school administrator, teacher, or
15 representative of an approved home study program or a general education
16 development skills program.

17 (b)(i) Members nominated by certain school or community
18 organizations. Up to seven youths may serve as members nominated by a state
19 level, school-sponsored or community service club or organization which has a
20 mission that supports the ideals of character, leadership, and service;
21 encourages mutual respect and instills civic responsibility; builds courage and
22 confidence among young people through community participation; or promotes
23 the principles of representative democracy, in an effort to build stronger
24 communities by increasing civic engagement among youth.

25 (ii) If the number of clubs or organizations eligible for and making a
26 request to participate exceeds seven, the initial members shall be determined by
27 lot. Following the initial appointments to the council, the membership shall
28 rotate annually among the eligible clubs or organizations.

29 (iii) Any state level club or organization that meets the qualifications of
30 this Subparagraph may submit one name to the commission.

1 (2) The application form for membership on the council shall be
 2 developed by the commission.

3 (3) The following persons shall serve as advisory, nonvoting members of
 4 the council:

5 (a) A member of the Senate, appointed by the president.

6 (b) A member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker.

7 (c) The chairman of the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education.

8 (d) The state superintendent of education, or his designee.

9 C. Qualifications of youth members. Each member of the council shall:

10 (1) Be a resident of Louisiana.

11 (2) Be a student aged fourteen through nineteen.

12 (3) Be enrolled and attending a Louisiana high school in the ninth, tenth,
 13 eleventh, or twelfth grade; participating in a home study program approved by
 14 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; or participating in a
 15 general education development skills program as defined by policy adopted by
 16 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

17 D. Terms of office. (1) Members appointed by the commission pursuant
 18 to Subparagraph (B)(1)(a) of this Section shall serve a two-year term and may
 19 be reappointed for a subsequent term provided that they are eligible at the time
 20 of reappointment.

21 (2) A member representing an eligible club or organization pursuant to
 22 Subparagraph (B)(1)(b) of this Section shall serve a term of one year.

23 E. Duties. The council shall have the following duties and
 24 responsibilities:

25 (1) To identify the concerns and needs of youth, and to advise and make
 26 recommendations to members of the legislature on proposed or pending
 27 legislation and on policy matters related to youth.

28 (2) To collect, analyze, and provide information to the Senate and House
 29 committees on education and any other legislative committees, commissions,
 30 and task forces on issues related to youth.

1 **(3) To participate in an annual seminar prior to the school year for**
2 **council members regarding leadership, government, and the legislature.**

3 **(4) To hold at least one public hearing each year for the purpose of**
4 **receiving youth comment on issues of importance to youth and such other**
5 **meetings at the call of the council chair.**

6 **(5) To submit an annual report by February fifteenth of each year of its**
7 **activities, including any recommendations for proposed legislation, to the**
8 **governor, the Senate and House committees on education, and the commission.**

9 **F. Council administration. (1)(a) There shall be a legislative chair and**
10 **a youth chair of the council; however, the chairman of the Louisiana**
11 **Commission on Civic Education shall call the first meeting of the council and**
12 **shall serve as co-chair during the first year. Thereafter, the responsibility for**
13 **presiding as a co-chair of the council shall rotate annually between the two**
14 **advisory members from the Senate and the House of Representatives.**

15 **(b) Youth officers shall be elected at the first meeting of each calendar**
16 **year, including a president who shall serve as co-chair, and a vice president,**
17 **secretary, communications officer, and historian. All officers shall be elected**
18 **by the voting members of the council and shall serve for a term of one year. Any**
19 **vacancy in an office shall be filled with an election by the voting members of the**
20 **council for the remainder of the unexpired term.**

21 **(2) Members of the council shall serve without compensation, except**
22 **legislative advisory members shall receive mileage and per diem at the rate**
23 **established by the legislature when attending meetings of the council.**

24 **(3) Meetings of the council shall be open to the public.**

25 **(4) The council shall set priorities and may establish any committees as**
26 **may be necessary in connection with the exercise of its functions.**

27 **(5) Council members shall review and consider the procedures and rules**
28 **used by the legislature as such may be appropriate for use as models for the**
29 **council.**

30 **(6) The legislative staff of the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education**

1 **shall provide staff assistance to the council.**

2 §974. Funding

3 To achieve the purposes of this Chapter, the commission may, **on its own**
4 **behalf or on behalf of the council,** seek, accept, and expend monies from any
5 source, including donations, state appropriations, and federal grants and may seek,
6 accept, and use services from individuals, corporations, and governmental entities.

7 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2007; if vetoed by the governor
8 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,
9 2007, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____