

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 327

BY SENATOR STINE

MUSEUMS. Provides with respect to French immersion education programs at K-12 schools and designates a historical French Bible at the Louisiana State Museum as the official state book. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:273.3(B)(1) and (4) and to enact R.S. 17:273.3(B)(5) and R.S.
3 49:170.26, relative to educational curriculums and books printed in the French
4 language; to provide with respect to the French immersion programs taught at public
5 schools; to designate a certain French Bible in the Louisiana State Museum as the
6 official state book; to provide for legislative intent; to recognize and acknowledge
7 the state motto; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:273.3(B)(1) and (4) are hereby amended and reenacted and to R.S.
10 17:273.3(B)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §273.3. Foreign language immersion programs; creation by local school boards;
12 parent petition; **French immersion**

13 * * *

14 B. The legislature finds that:

15 (1) Research indicates that students who participate in foreign language
16 immersion programs, particularly **in French immersion programs**, demonstrate
17 greater levels of proficiency in the English language, higher overall academic

1 achievement, and higher levels of self-esteem.

2 * * *

3 (4) In Louisiana, French language development and French language
4 immersion programs, in particular, provide a better understanding of the state's social
5 traditions and serve to promote, preserve, and develop our unique bilingual culture,
6 tradition, and history.

7 (5) In reflecting its unique bilingual culture, tradition and history,
8 Louisiana has adopted as its official state book the Holy Bible, published by
9 Johannes Prevel (Prevel, Jean, active 1510-1528, printer. & Petit, Jean, fl. 1492-
10 1530.) in the French language, and is the oldest edition of the Holy Bible in the
11 Louisiana State Museum system.

12 * * *

13 Section 2. R.S. 49:170.26 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

14 §170.26. State book; the Holy Bible printed in French

15 A. The legislature does hereby recognize and acknowledge the following:

16 (1) That the state motto as found in the state pledge of allegiance: "A
17 state, under God, united in purpose and ideals, confident that justice shall
18 prevail for all of those abiding here."

19 (2) That Louisiana's vibrant culture is largely influenced by our French
20 history.

21 (3) That in the year 1682 A.D., French explorer Rene'-Robert Cavalier,
22 Sieur de laSalle, erected a cross near the mouth of the Mississippi River to claim
23 the whole of the basin, naming it "La Louisiane".

24 B. There shall be an official state book. The official state book shall be
25 the Holy Bible, published by Johannes Prevel (Prevel, Jean, active 1510-1528,
26 printer. & Petit, Jean, fl. 1492-1530.) in the French language and is the oldest
27 edition of the Holy Bible in the Louisiana State Museum system.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 327 Original 2026 Regular Session Stine

Present law provides for a French immersion curriculum to be taught in certain K-12 public schools which teach core curriculum subjects that are infused with French language instruction.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the French culture is part of the state's tradition and history.

Proposed law provides for legislative intent as follows:

- (1) That the state motto as found in the state pledge of allegiance: "A state, under God, united in purpose and ideals, confident that justice shall prevail for all of those abiding here".
- (2) That Louisiana's vibrant culture is largely influenced by our French history.
- (3) That in the year 1682 A.D., French explorer Rene'-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de laSalle, erected a cross near the mouth of the Mississippi River to claim the whole of the basin, naming it "La Louisiane".

Proposed law retain present law and provides that the official state book of La. is the Holy Bible, published by Johannes Prevel, (Prevel, Jean, active 1510-1528, printer. & Petit, Jean, fl. 1492-1530.), in French and is the oldest edition of the Holy Bible in the La. State Museum system.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 17:273.3(B)(1) and (4); adds R.S. 17:273.3(B)(5) and R.S. 49:170.26)