

House District #2

THE HONORABLE ROY A. BURRELL

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S.E.E.D.S. FOR SUCCESS

Security

Education

Economic Development

Diversity

Savings



2008 2nd Extraordinary Session

Spending the Surplus and Tax Breaks

"Mirroring the first special session, the business of the 2008 2nd Extraordinary Session was completed earlier than the time allotted in the governor's call. Although the session was scheduled to end no later than March 29, business was concluded in only six days. This session saw fewer bills filed and considered. The House introduced 47 bills and the Senate, 20, and only one bill was sent to conference committee.

This session focused on utilizing the state's \$1.1 billion surplus for various projects and programs, including much needed road and bridge repair, coastal restoration and protection, reducing the liability of state retirement systems and affording tax breaks to both business and citizens. By the required two-thirds vote, the legislature did raise the expenditure limit in order to spend the surplus dollars."

- HOUSE NOTES, The Latest News from the State Capitol, Louisiana House of Representatives, 2nd Special Session Wrap-Up, March 14, 2008

\$1.1 Billion Surplus Divided Up

-\$500M Roads, Bridges, and Ports

- Statewide Transportation and Port Projects
- Road Restoration and Resurfacing; \$90M
- Bridge Repair and Improvements; \$45M
- Highway Program; \$17M
- Port Projects; statewide and New Orleans; \$67M
- Non-Federal Aid Highway Program; \$24M
- Highway Widening
- I-12 O'Neal to Walker; EBR, Livingston; \$100M
- US 90, I-49 South Corridor; Lafayette; \$20M
- I-12, US 11 to Interstates; St. Tammany; \$35M

•LA 28; Vernon Line to Jct. LA 121; Rapides; \$25M

•LA 73, US 61 to I-10; Ascension; \$15M

•I-49 from I-220; Shreveport to Arkansas; \$17M

•LA 1 Improvements; Lafourche; \$2M

•El Camino East West Corridor, LA 927W-LA 124; \$6M

•Catahoula, Concordia, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Sabine, Winn

-\$300M Coastal Restoration and Levee Repairs (HB 6)

-\$75M Repairs on state college campuses

-\$60M Reduce UAL, state retirement systems' debt

-\$57M Cyber Command Center Project, Bossier City

-\$50M Pennington Biomedical Research Center

2008 Regular Legislative Session

Adjudicated Property

In the 2006 Regular Session of the Louisiana State Legislature, Rep. Burrell (primary author) and Rep. Gallot authored House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) No. 69 which urged and requested the Louisiana State Law Institute to study and make recommendations relative to organizing and improving the procedures for the sale of tax adjudicated properties and make recommendations on procedures that would ensure merchantable title of tax adjudicated properties.

The Current Problem:

- Blighted & abandoned properties, put up for tax sale and then “adjudicated” to the taxing city or parish when no bids received.
- The failed tax sales create title problems for the properties, which may also have preexisting title problems, that make it very difficult to finance any rehabilitation or improvement of the properties.
- Historically, tax sales could be used to clear up title.
- But a 1983 U.S. Supreme Court decision, known as Mennonite, struck down the long accepted practice of notifying most interested parties about a tax sale through the publication of a legal notice in a newspaper.
- Louisiana has never revised its tax sale procedures to comply with Mennonite; published notices

continue to be used to notify nearly everyone holding an interest in tax sale property – except for the first owner listed on the tax roll, who is sent notices by mail and in some cases by certified mail.

- As a result, tax sales no longer clear up title problems, they create new ones; the ownership purportedly conveyed by the sale is subject to challenge by all the persons who were not properly notified of the sale.
- But it does not seem feasible to require the tax collector, in advance of every tax sale, to conduct a full title search, followed by a search of available mailing address information, for every property on which taxes become delinquent.
- The question is how to resolve the unavoidable Mennonite problem without imposing enormous new costs on the tax collection system.

The Proposed Solution – New Legislation

As a result of the studies, House Bill (HB) 337 has been pre-filed by Rep. Burrell and Rep. Gallot. The current text of the bill is one hundred ten (110) pages. The complete digest is twelve (12) pages.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

Burrell HB No. 337

Abstract: Revises the procedures on property tax payment and collection, tax sales, and adjudicated property.

MAJOR CHANGES

This proposed revision of the law on property tax payment and collection procedure, tax sales, and adjudicated property amends, restates, and reorganizes the law so as to encourage the payment and efficient collection of property taxes, satisfy the requirements of due process, provide a fair process for the redemption of tax sale, and adjudicated property and otherwise encourage the return to commerce of such properties, and to retain existing procedures not inconsistent with the proposed revision. The law on tax sales and redemptions is consolidated into a new Chapter 5 of Subtitle III of Title 47, divided into seven Parts, with new numbering, all replacing a former Chapter 5 that was divided into three Parts. The proposal consolidates the various retained statutes from the former Title 47 provisions, repeals those provisions inconsistent with the revision in that Title, in Title 13, and in Title 33, and retains and renumbers consistent provisions into a single comprehensive Chapter.

For more information, visit the Web Portal to the Louisiana State Legislature at www.legis.state.la.us.

Dr. Roy L. Burrell



Is There a Doctor in the House?

Rep. Burrell's eldest son, Roy Louis (R.L.), earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from the University of New Orleans and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physician Assistant Studies from Howard University Medical School, Washington, D.C. As a third year medical student, Mr. Burrell received the National Student Research Forum (NSRF) Poster Award, presented by the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX, (UTMB-Galveston) Department of Orthopedics in recognition of his outstanding research.

Mr. Burrell's project, "A Study of Morphology and Mechanical Properties of Goat, Sheep, and Human Lumbar Vertebral Bodies", was conducted with members of LSUHSC-Shreveport's Department of Orthopedic Surgery. They included Richard McCall, M.D., Professor and Head; Alan Ogden, Research Associate; and Debi Mukherjee, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Coordina-

tor of Bioengineering.

The research project was accepted for presentation at the NSRF national conference in Galveston, Texas. Mr. Burrell's research sought to compare the morphology, mechanical properties and ash contents of L1 and L2 vertebral bodies to aid in selecting the proper animal model for biomechanical studies. The data gained from this study can be used as a guide in selecting appropriate animal models to determine the proper spinal instrumentation to aid in the study of osteoporotic conditions of the human lumbar vertebral bodies.

For each year of school, Mr. Burrell was also a LSU Board of Supervisors Scholarship recipient. His memberships include the Student National Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

Mr. Burrell is also very involved in the community. His volunteer activities have included the HIP Corps (HIV Intervention and Prevention Corps educator at Shreveport Job Corps); the MLK Health Clinic; YSEP mentor (Youth Science Enrichment Program) – promote science education to various grade schools in the Shreveport area such as Lakeshore Elementary; Camp Tiger Counselor -

Summer project in which a group of 1st year medical students raise money to put on a camp for individuals with medical illnesses such as autism, ADHD, cerebral palsy, etc.

In May of 2008, Mr. Burrell will receive a doctorate of medicine from Louisiana State University Health Science Center—Shreveport. In July 2008, Dr. Burrell will begin orthopedic surgery residency at LSUHSC-Shreveport.

"I'm so proud of Roy, just as I am of my other kids. Hopefully, I have given them all good work ethics and a few smarts," says Rep. Burrell.

Rep. Burrell's other children are his daughter, LaShondria (Shon), a graduate of Southern University and A & M College, Baton Rouge, with two Bachelor of Science Degrees in Physics and Mathematics, and a Master of Science Degree in Physics, Computational Materials Science. Neiman (the middle son) received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. His youngest son, Ryan, is a railroad engineer as well as an entrepreneur having been a successful business owner in Child Development.

News For Constituents

DISTINGUISHED HOSPITALS

*American Hospital Association (AHA),
Baxter International Foundation, and
Cardinal Health Foundation -- Foster G.
McGaw Prize*

Application Deadline: April 4, 2008

Description: The Foster G. McGaw Prize was created to recognize hospitals that have distinguished themselves through efforts to improve the health and well-being of everyone in their communities.

Funding Amount: The winner will receive:

\$100,000

a trophy

recognition at a special awards ceremony at the AHA annual meeting

coverage in AHA News, Hospitals and Health Networks, and other health-care publications.

Up to three finalists will each receive \$10,000 and mention in AHA News, Hospitals and Health Networks, and other health-care publications.

Who May Apply: Health-care delivery organizations

For more information, go to:
<http://www.aha.org/aha/news-center/awards/foster/>

URBAN SECURITY

*U.S. Department of Homeland Security
-- Urban Areas Security Initiative, Non-*

profit Security Grant Program

Application Deadline: May 1, 2008

Description: The fiscal year 2008 Urban Areas Security Initiative Nonprofit Security Grant Program provides funding support for target-hardening activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of international terrorist attack. While this funding is provided specifically to high-risk nonprofit organizations, the program seeks to integrate nonprofit preparedness activities with broader state and local preparedness efforts. It is also designed to promote coordination and collaboration in emergency preparedness activities among public and private community representatives, state and local government agencies, and Citizen Corps councils.

Funding Amount: The program will provide \$15,000,000 to high-risk nonprofit organizations. Each nonprofit organization may apply through its state for a grant of up to \$75,000.

Who May Apply: The governor of each state and territory with an eligible fiscal year 2008 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) jurisdiction is required to designate a state administrative agency (SAA) to apply for and administer the funds awarded. The SAA is the only entity formally eligible to apply for these funds. Applications must be provided to the SAA from eligible nonprofit organizations -- as described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from tax under Section 501(a)

of such code -- that are at high risk of international terrorist attack and are located within one of the specific UASI-eligible urban areas (see full announcement for list of areas).

For more information, go to:

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/uasi/fy08_uasi_guidance.pdf

CHARACTER EDUCATION

*Sprint -- Sprint Ahead for Education
Grant Program*

Application Deadline: The grant application period will run from March 3, 2008, to April 15, 2008.

Description: Through the Sprint Ahead for Education grant program, the Sprint Foundation will award grants to school districts and individual schools to fund the purchase of resource materials, supplies, equipment, and software that facilitate and encourage character education among K-12 students.

Funding Amount: The Sprint Ahead for Education initiative will award individual school grants of up to \$5,000 and school district grants of up to \$25,000. In 2008, the Sprint Foundation plans to award up to \$600,000 in combined grants to schools and school districts.

Who May Apply: The program is open to all U.S. public schools (K-12) and U.S. public school districts.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.sprint.com/citizenship/>

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education/sprintahead/

FARMWORKER SERVICES

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Housing Service -- National Emergency or Disaster Grants to Assist Low-Income Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers

Application Deadline: April 4, 2008

Description: The purpose of this program is to provide emergency services to low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

Funding Amount: \$16,000,000 is available to provide emergency services to low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers where the secretary of agriculture determines that a local, state, or national emergency or disaster has caused low-income migrant or seasonal farmworkers to lose income, be unable to work, or stay at home or return home in anticipation of work shortages.

Who May Apply: Eligibility for grants for emergency services is limited to public agencies or private organizations with tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 United States Code that have experience in providing emergency services to low-income migrant and seasonal farmworkers. These funds are to be administered in areas where the secretary of agriculture determines that a local, state, or national emergency or disaster has occurred.

For more information, go to: <http://>

a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20081800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-1951.htm

HIV PREVENTION

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) -- Minority Substance Abuse/HIV Prevention Initiative

Application Deadline: April 1, 2008

Description: The purpose of this program is to support an array of activities to assist grantees in building a solid foundation for delivering and sustaining quality and accessible state-of-the-science substance-abuse and HIV-prevention services. Specifically, the program aims to engage community-level domestic public and private nonprofit entities to prevent and reduce the onset of substance abuse and transmission of HIV/AIDS among at-risk racial/ethnic minority subpopulations.

Funding Amount:

Anticipated total available funding: \$17,890,000

Anticipated number of awards: 46

Anticipated award amount: up to \$400,000 per year

Length of project period: up to 5 years

Who May Apply: Eligible applicants are community-level domestic public and private nonprofit entities. For example, nonprofit community-based organizations, faith-based organiza-

tions, colleges and universities, health-care delivery organizations, local governments, tribal governments, tribal organizations, and tribal urban Indian entities are eligible to apply.

For more information, go to:

http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2008/sp_08_001.aspx

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Washington Mutual

Application Deadline: Ongoing

Description: Washington Mutual is pleased to team up with nonprofit organizations by investing in their efforts to build stronger communities. Washington Mutual awards millions of dollars in cash grants each year to support K-12 public education, financial education, and affordable housing and community development.

Who May Apply: Tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code within the areas in which Washington Mutual does business may apply.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.wamu.com/about/community/grantsguidelines/default.asp>

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

ESA (Entertainment Software Association) Foundation

Application Deadline: April 15 annually for projects starting in the follow-

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ing calendar year

Description: The ESA Foundation is dedicated to supporting positive programs and opportunities that make a difference in the quality of life, health, and welfare of America's youth. The foundation seeks to harness the collective power of the interactive entertainment industry to create positive social impact in our communities. The interactive entertainment industry supports geographically diverse projects and programs that benefit American youth of all races, denominations, and genders.

Who May Apply: The ESA Foundation is limited in the number of projects that it can support. To receive funding, an organization making a grant request must meet the following criteria:

be tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code

seek funding for a specific project or program that is or will be implemented in two or more states in the United States, and that serves youths ages 7-18

provide youth programs in one or more of the following areas:

- a. skills and personal development
- b. general health and welfare
- c. risk behavior prevention
- d. education
- e. multimedia arts/technology related or applied.

For more information, go to:
<http://www.theesa.com/foundation/grant.php>

ABANDONED INFANTS

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children & Families -- Abandoned Infants Assistance: Comprehensive Support Services for Families Affected by Substance Abuse and/or HIV/AIDS

Application Deadline: May 27, 2008

Description: The purpose of Public Law 100-505, the Abandoned Infants Assistance Act of 1988, as amended, is to establish a program of local support-services projects in order to:

prevent the abandonment in hospitals of infants and young children, particularly those who have been perinatally exposed to a dangerous drug, those who have the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or have been perinatally exposed to the virus, or those who have a life-threatening illness or other special medical need

identify and address the needs of those infants and children who are, or might be, abandoned

develop a program of comprehensive support services for these infants and young children and their natural families (see program announcement for definitions) that include, but are not limited to, foster-family care services, case-management services, family support services, respite and crisis-intervention services, counseling ser-

vices, and group residential home services

recruit and train health and social services personnel, foster-care families, and residential care providers to meet the needs of abandoned children and infants as well as children who are at risk of abandonment.

Funding Amount:

Anticipated total priority area funding: \$4,275,000

Anticipated number of awards: 0 to 9

Ceiling on amount of individual awards: \$475,000 per budget period

Floor on amount of individual awards: none

Average projected award amount: \$475,000 per budget period

Length of project period: 48-month project with four 12-month budget periods

Who May Apply:

State governments

County governments

City or township governments

Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education

Indian/Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)

Indian/Native American tribal organizations (other than federally recognized)

Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS status

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(other than institutions of higher education)

Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) IRS status (other than institutions of higher education)

Private institutions of higher education

Public and nonprofit private entities, including those listed above, are eligible to apply. Collaborative and interdisciplinary efforts are encouraged, but applications should identify a primary applicant responsible for administering the grant. Faith-based and community organizations that meet the statutory eligibility requirements are eligible to apply under this announcement. Foreign entities are not eligible under this announcement.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2008-ACF-ACYF-CB-0045.html>

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT

Open Society Institute -- Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap

Application Deadline: April 11, 2008

Description: Closing the Addiction Treatment Gap is a \$10 million national program of the Open Society Institute (OSI). This initiative is designed to create an awareness of -- and increase resources to close -- an alarming treatment gap: Currently, four out of five Americans who need drug and alcohol addiction treatment are unable to get it. The initiative aims to mobilize public support for expanded treatment

by increasing public funding, broadening insurance coverage, and achieving greater program efficiency.

Funding Amount: Funding is available for a minimum of six grants. More grants may be awarded depending on the final number of OSI funding partners. Grants are awarded for a period of up to 3 years at a maximum of \$600,000 for the entire period, including overhead costs. Awards will be in effect between July 1, 2008, and July 30, 2011.

Who May Apply: Eligible applicants are required to:

show proof of IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, government, or quasi-public authority status

have a scope of responsibility that includes a cohesive governmental jurisdiction (e.g., city, county, state, or tribal jurisdiction).

For more information, go to:

<http://www.soros.org/initiatives/treatmentgap>

Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities

Thirty-six states and the Virgin Islands have implemented PRIME TIME programs since the pilot program was developed in East Baton Rouge Parish in 1991 with an LEH grant.

The deadline to apply for a PRIME TIME FAMILY READING grant for the Fall 2008 session in Louisiana is April

15, 2008. Public libraries, schools, community centers, and other public institutions are eligible to apply. To fill fall and spring sessions, PRIME TIME grants are awarded twice per calendar year.

WHAT THE GRANT PROVIDES:

Training for 3 team members in New Orleans

Selected syllabus of books for 25 families (loan)

Team member stipends

Transportation for participating families

Promotional materials

On-going technical support

For more information about PRIME TIME please visit their webpage <http://www.leh.org/html/primetime.html>.

For more information on bringing PRIME TIME to your community, please contact Faye Flanagan, Project Director at flanagan@leh.org.

Go to <http://www.doa.state.la.us/arc/ProgAsstsrch.cfm> to access the Louisiana Office of Community Development Assistance Resource Center. LARC is a searchable database of grants, loans, technical assistance, funding opportunities and other resources for Louisiana parishes, cities, towns, communities, and faith-based and non-profit organizations.

News For Constituents

STRAWBERRIES AND SNOW?



On Friday, March 7, 2008, Rep. Burrell received his annual delivery of Louisiana Strawberries. Darryl Schultz (holding the strawberries), Judge Bob Morrison, and Tangiapahoa Parish President Gordon Burgess (not pictured; holding the parking space). The strawberries were distributed to residents of House District 2.

Also of note on this day, it snowed in Shreveport. The inclement weather caused some school systems to close early. The Shreveport Times online edition has three photo galleries (1) Snow photos, (2) Reader-submitted snow photos, and (3) More reader snow photos.

A recipe from the Louisiana Strawberry Marketing Board website (<http://louisianastrawberries.com/cooking.html>):

Fresh Strawberry Pie

Ingredients:

1 - 9 inch pie shell, baked
 3/4 Cup - Sugar
 1/2 Cup - Flour
 1/4 Teaspoon - Salt
 3 Cups - Milk
 3 - Egg Yolks, beaten slightly
 2 Tablespoons - Butter
 1 1/2 Teaspoon Vanilla
 1 Cup - Whipping Cream
 1 1/2 Tablespoons - Powdered Sugar
 2 1/2 Cups - Fresh Strawberries, Stemmed
 1 Cup - Fresh or Frozen, thawed, blueberries

Directions:

Cool and set aside pie shell. In 3-quart saucepan combine sugar, flour and salt. Whisk in milk until smooth. Cook and stir over medium-low heat until mixture is thickened, 8 to 10 minutes, being careful not to scorch. Beat the egg yolks slightly. Add a couple of tablespoons of the hot milk mixture to them, stirring, then pour the yolk

mixture back into the hot milk. Cook and stiff 3 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the butter and vanilla. Let cool for 20 minutes, then pour into the prepared pie shell. Chill for several hours until firm. In bowl of electric mixer, combine whipping cream and powdered sugar. Beat until soft peaks form. Set aside. Remove pie from refrigerator. Arrange Strawberries and blueberries on filling. Serve with whipped cream. Makes 6 to 8 servings.



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