



UWSELA PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA “UNITED FOR A SAFE & PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY”

Ron McClain, Public Policy Chairman

2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

United Way of Southeast Louisiana’s (UWSELA) Blueprint for Prosperity advances our mission to eradicate poverty and support **ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)**. ALICE represents the growing number of hardworking individuals and families across Louisiana who are working but unable to afford the basic household necessities, including housing, child care, health care, food, and transportation. According to the United Way ALICE Report for Louisiana, over half of households in our state were living in poverty or struggling to make ends meet even before COVID-19 and hurricanes Laura and Ida.

UWSELA Public Policy Committee’s 2022 State Legislative Agenda will advance our Blueprint for Prosperity and work to stabilize ALICE households by ensuring health, education, and financial stability for all.

UWSELA Public Policy coordinated with our Community Impact staff to ensure issues resonating in our community and affecting ALICE families were included in this agenda.

UWSELA Public Policy Committee also held two education sessions featuring a range of experts. We thank our partners for sharing their knowledge to help UWSELA create a robust legislative agenda and for sharing our commitment to eliminating poverty.

Educational Session #1: Education, Financial Stability, and Health – [LINK](#)
Educational Session #2: Health, Community Strengthening, and DEI – [LINK](#)

The 2022 First Extraordinary Session convened on February 1 to redraw district lines for the state House and Senate, with final adjournment on February 20. Redistricting work is required every 10 years with the release of new U.S. Census data to account for population shifts.

The 2022 Regular Legislative Session convened March 14 and will adjourn by June 6.

EDUCATION

As part of the Ready Louisiana Coalition, United Way of Southeast Louisiana is urging the legislature to appropriate \$94 million of state funds to early care and education programs. Read the coalition’s joint statement [here](#).

HB 1, the state budget bill, currently includes almost \$44 million in early care and education funding, including funding to expand the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and improve LA4 rates.

We must provide opportunities for ALL families to access the quality child care and after-school programs needed for children to succeed in school and parents to be productive members of the workforce.

We must provide ALL of our children with the education and services they need for a bright and fulfilling future.

- **Early Childhood Education (ECE) (Ages 0-3)**
- **Increase Investment in K-12 Schools and Higher Education**

HB 460 by Rep. Ken Brass

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1260221>

CHILDREN: Expands the purposes for which a parish governing authority may levy a tax relative to early childhood programs

HB 22 by Rep. Rick Edmonds

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1244450>

RETIREMENT/TEACHERS: Provides relative to the reemployment of retired teachers in the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (OR INCREASE APV)

HB 207 by Rep. Jason Hughes

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillInfo.aspx?s=22RS&b=HB207&sbi=y>

CURRICULA: Adds Geometry as a required course for high school students in the career major program

HB 346 by Rep. Francis C. Thompson

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1253879>

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Provides for a program and a fund for the purpose of providing scholarships for students in approved teacher preparation programs

HB 649 by Rep. Stephanie Hilferty

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1257299>

STUDENT/DISCIPLINE: Prohibits corporal punishment in public schools

FINANCIAL STABILITY

UWSELA supports the [Recovery Agenda for Louisiana](#), which includes proposals to use the state's surplus funds from federal disaster and COVID-19 relief funds and better-than-expected tax revenues for critical new investments in families and communities that will fund a true recovery for all Louisianans. These proposals include the statewide expansion of United Way Prosperity Centers to help thousands of families secure their financial footing.

We must continue to invest state funds in the evidenced-based programs that net the largest return of federal dollars so the state can keep more of the dollars paid by Louisiana citizens. We must invest in Louisiana's working families to ensure financial stability so that no Louisiana family is forced to be **ALICE** (**A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed).

- **Workforce Development**
- **Elimination of Pay Secrecy**
- **Establishment of a Living Wage**

HB 219 by Rep. Kyle M. Green, Jr.

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1251899>

EMPLOYMENT: Provides relative to equal pay for women

HB 229 by Rep. Kyle M. Green, Jr.

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1251927>

EMPLOYMENT/WAGES-MINIMUM: (Constitutional Amendment) Establishes a state minimum wage (OR INCREASE GF EX See Note)

HB 311 by Rep. C. Denise Marcelle

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1253837>

EMPLOYMENT/WAGES-MINIMUM: Establishes a state minimum wage rate (OR INCREASE GF EX See Note)

HB 472 by Rep. Tammy Phelps

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1255668>

EMPLOYMENT/WAGES: Provides relative to wages for tipped employees

SB 269 by Sen. Regina Ashford Barrow

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1256516>

EMPLOYMENT: Constitutional amendment to establish a state minimum hourly wage and index future increases according to the Consumer Price Index or its successor index. (2/3 - CA13s1(A))

SB 289 by Sen. Regina Ashford Barrow

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1256729>

EMPLOYMENT: Provides for employee paid sick leave. (2/3 - CA7s2.1(A)) (gov sig)

HEALTH

United Way of Southeast Louisiana believes that all Louisianans should have access to equitable health services that protect and improve health and well-being.

- **Trauma-Informed Care/ACEs**
- **Mental Health Services**
- **Paid Family Leave**
- **Human Trafficking**
- **Sexual Assault**
- **Maternal Child Health**
- **Medicaid**

HB 90 by Rep. C. Denise Marcelle

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1248154>

HEALTH/LDH: Creates the office on women’s health within the La. Department of Health and provides for the duties and functions of the office

SB 116 by Sen. Regina Ashford Barrow

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1253629>

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Creates the office on women’s health within the Louisiana Department of Health. (gov sig)

HB 195 by Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1251013>

SCHOOLS: Requires public schools to provide free menstrual products in student restrooms or other easily accessible locations (OR INCREASE LF EX See Note)

HB 334 by Rep. Royce Duplessis

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1253866>

HEALTH/BEHAVIORAL: Provides relative to employment with behavioral health services providers of peer support specialists

HB 784 by Rep. Royce Duplessis

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1258049>

HEALTH: Provides relative to universal perinatal mood disorder screening for primary care doctors

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. Children, who grow up witnessing domestic violence, are among those seriously affected by this crime.

As a leader of the United Against Domestic Violence Coalition, UWSELA will continue to advocate for positions previously taken in the Louisiana Legislature to protect survivors of domestic violence. The coalition’s 2022 legislative book, [found here](#), provides background information on domestic violence in Louisiana and priority bills.

HB 7 by Rep. Kathy Edmonston

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1243437>

DOMESTIC ABUSE: Provides relative to court-monitored domestic abuse intervention program (OR NO IMPACT See Note) – (*Support online instruction only during public health declaration*)

HB 64 by Rep. Mandie Landry

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1260214>

CHILDREN: Provides relative to the definition of a child – (*STAR bill*)

HB 68 by Rep. Barbara Carpenter

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1247448>

CRIME/HOMICIDE: Provides relative to the crime of first-degree murder

HB 124 by Rep. Nicholas Muscarell

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1259521>

CIVIL/PROCEDURE: Provides relative to certain judicial proceedings conducted by audio-visual means

HB 223 by Rep. C. Denise Marcelle

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1251905>

COURTS: Provides relative to eligibility for the Reentry Court Specialty Program

HB 272 by Rep. Patrick O. Jefferson

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1252430>

FAMILY LAW: Provides for mental health evaluations in divorce and child custody proceedings

HB 313 by Rep. Thomas Pressly

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1253839>

CRIMINAL/VICTIMS: Provides relative to rights of victims of criminal offenses – (LCADV & STAR bill)

HB 402 by Rep. Jason Hughes

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1254412>

PRESCRIPTION: Provides relative to the prescriptive period for certain actions for abuse of a minor

HB 409 by Rep. Joseph Marino

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1254461>

CRIMINAL/PROCEDURE: Prohibits the issuance of a summons in lieu of an arrest for certain domestic violence crimes – (*Support arrest of predominant aggressor*)

HB 431 by Rep. Edmond Jordan

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1254895>

CRIME/DNA: Provides relative to DNA database cross-referencing

HB 462 by Buddy Mincey

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1260232>

CRIME: Creates the crime of unauthorized removal of a minor from school property (OR SEE FISC NOTE GF EX)

HB 464 by Alan Seabaugh

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1255525>

WEAPONS/FIREARMS: Provides relative to the transfer of firearms

HB 483 by Rep. C. Travis Johnson

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1255997>

WEAPONS/HANDGUNS: Provides relative to the restoration of gun rights

HB 492 by Rep. Bryan Fontenot

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1256056>

CRIMINAL/PROCEDURE: Provides relative to the issuance of a summons by a peace officer

HB 508 by Rep. Gregory A. Miller

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1256125>

CRIME/SEX OFFENSES: Provides relative to notification when an inmate convicted of a violent or sexual offense is scheduled to be released

HB 520 by Rep. Jason Hughes

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1256261>

HEALTH/WOMEN'S: Provides relative to emergency contraception for victims of sexual assault

HB 560 by Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1256663>

DOMESTIC ABUSE: Provides for consistency in the Domestic Abuse Assistance Act in the Children's Code

HB 561 by Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1256664>

CIVIL/ACTIONS: Provides relative to civil liability for sexual assault

HB 585 by Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1256974>

WEAPONS/FIREARMS: Provides relative to reporting of certain firearm data to the La. Commission on Law Enforcement

HB 615 by Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1257030>

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Provides relative to law enforcement records

HB 638 by Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1257104>

CRIMINAL/RECORDS: Provides relative to the expungement of records for victims of human trafficking

HB 648 by Rep. Stephanie Hilferty

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1257298>

CRIMINAL/VICTIMS: Provides relative to the Crime Victims Reparations Act

SB 51 by Sen. Beth Mizell

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1249279>

COURTS: Adds a second commissioner to the Twenty-Second Judicial District Court and authorizes commissioners to preside over domestic violence cases and civil matters. (8/1/22) (OR +\$125,250 LF EX See Note)

SB 64 by Sen. Patrick Connick

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1250126>

CRIME/PUNISHMENT: Provides relative to crimes of violence and sex offenses. (8/1/22)

SB 66 by Sen. Patrick Connick

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1250130>

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Enhances penalties for violation of a protective order when committed while in possession of a firearm. (8/1/22)

SB 69 by Sen. Patrick Connick

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1250136>

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE: Provides relative to protections for crime victims. (8/1/22)

SB 142 by Sen. Jay Morris

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1254519>

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Prohibits violent offenders from being released under certain circumstances. (8/1/22)

SB 148 by Sen. Beth Mizell

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1254537>

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Provides for post-conviction relief for victims of human trafficking. (gov sig)

SB 174 by Sen. Mike Reese

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1254661>

BANKS/BANKING: Provides relative to shareholder remedies within the state banking code. (8/1/22)

SB 251 by Sen. Regina Ashford Barrow

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1255815>

CRIME/PUNISHMENT: Provides for expert testimony for defendants seeking to show justification at the time of the crime. (8/1/22)

SB 255 by Sen. Regina Ashford Barrow

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1255826>

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Provides relative to court costs and fees in domestic abuse cases. (gov sig)

SB 289 by Sen. Regina Ashford Barrow

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1256729>

EMPLOYMENT: Provides for employee paid sick leave. (2/3 - CA7s2.1(A) (gov sig)

SB 327 by Sen. Gary Carter

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1257684>

WEAPONS: Provides for the seizure of firearms from persons who pose a risk of imminent injury to self or others. (8/1/22)

SB 365 by Sen. Regina Ashford Barrow

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1258057>

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Creates the Louisiana Domestic Violence Registry. (8/1/22)

SB 379 by Sen. Barrow Peacock

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1258099>

WEAPONS: Prohibits possession of firearms, ammunition, or electric weapons or devices by certain felons. (8/1/22)

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING

UWSELA's community strengthening priorities focus on eliminating barriers to opportunity for vulnerable households and creating greater equity. Ending discrimination and inequities in our state will create a community where everyone can thrive.

One key area is continued investment to improve rehabilitative services for youth offenders that provide the support they need to reimagine their lives.

HB 129 by Rep. Richard Nelson

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1249354>

MTR VEHICLE/DRIVER LIC: Provides relative to an arrested person's failure to honor a written promise to appear

HB 271 by Rep. Jason Hughes

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1252429>

CRIMINAL/PROCEDURE: Provides relative to post-conviction relief for non-unanimous jury verdicts

HB 303 by Rep. Aimee Adatto Freeman

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1253791>

DISCRIMINATION: Provides relative to discrimination in sale or rental of housing and other prohibited practices

HB 316 by Rep. Matthew Willard

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1253842>

INSURANCE CLAIMS: Provides for the transmission of certain documents and recordings from insurers to insureds in times of a gubernatorially declared disaster

HB 317 by Rep. Matthew Willard

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1253843>

INSURANCE/POLICIES: Provides for hurricane, named storm, and wind and hail deductibles

SB 150 by Sen. Jay Luneau

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1254544>

INSURANCE CLAIMS: Provides relative to hurricane, named-storm, and wind and hail deductibles. (1/1/23) (OR NO IMPACT See Note)

HB 648 by Rep. Stephanie Hilferty

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1257298>

CRIMINAL/VICTIMS: Provides relative to the Crime Victims Reparations Act

HB 665 by Rep. Matthew Willard

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1257436>

HOUSING: Provides relative to the Louisiana Equal Housing Opportunity Act

HB 680 by Rep. Candace N. Newell

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1257479>

ELECTIONS/POLLING PLACES: Provides relative to notice of changes to polling places

HB 682 by Rep. Chad Brown

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1257508>

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT: Provides for a claims adjuster database (OR +\$213,302 SG EX See Note)

HB 692 by Rep. Ed Larvadain III

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1261999>

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT: Provides for the Louisiana Named Storm Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (EG +\$323,554 SD EX See Note)

HB 805 by Rep. Kyle M. Green, Jr.

<http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1258169>

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS: Provides for insurance proceeds disbursement plans

The following reports include the research of all issues UWSELA’s Public Policy Committee is advocating for in this 2022 Regular Legislative Session:

ALICE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT TOOL – EXPLORING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP BY DISTRICT

While the Federal Poverty Level is the basis for many public programs, looking at poverty alone excludes the 35 million households in the U.S. who are considered **ALICE** (**A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed), earning above the poverty level but below the basic cost of living in their communities. This interactive tool helps policymakers and community stakeholders better understand how many households are actually struggling in their district.

<https://www.unitedforalice.org/legislative-district-tool>

United Against Domestic Violence

<https://www.unitedwaysela.org/2022-united-against-domestic-violence-case-book>

A Recovery Agenda for Louisiana – Louisiana Budget Project (LBP)

<https://www.labudget.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/A-Recovery-Agenda-for-Louisiana.pdf>

Ready Louisiana Coalition 2022 Legislative Joint Statement

<https://www.readylouisiana.org/ready-la-2022-regular-session>

LOUISIANA SUSPENDED – Louisiana Appleseed

https://www.unitedwaysela.org/sites/unitedwaysela.org/files/Appleseed_Report_FINAL.pdf