

The 2019 Regular Session might be remembered as much by What Failed as What Passed by Louisiana citizens.

Lawmakers refused to abolish the death penalty, make significant changes to gun laws or set a [minimum marriage age](#) in the state. They jettisoned all House GOP efforts to roll back last year's tax deal and refused to legalize sports betting.

The largest disagreement, over public school financing, was resolved. K-12 teachers will get a \$1,000 raise in the 2019-20 school year, school support workers will get \$500 more annually and districts will get \$39 million in new discretionary money for their operations.

The school financing plan was the centerpiece of Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards' limited legislative agenda, fulfilling a promise he made to teacher unions who are backing him in his campaign to win reelection to a second term. He describes it as the first step in a multiyear plan to move teacher pay to the Southern average. Approval marked his main victory of a session that saw his minimum wage and equal pay protection proposals fail for a fourth year.

Already signed into law by Gov. John Bel Edwards is a [ban on abortion](#) as early as six weeks of pregnancy, when a fetal heartbeat is detected, among a package of anti-abortion bills that provoked angry debate but won overwhelming support. Louisiana became the fifth state to enact such a prohibition, refusing to include exceptions for pregnancies from rape or incest. But Louisiana's abortion ban takes effect only if Mississippi's law is upheld in federal court.

Lawmakers agreed to [labeling restrictions](#) that will keep veggie products from being called meat and products such as cauliflower rice from being marketed as rice. They [legalized industrial hemp](#) production and created regulations for selling CBD products. They also [earmarked \\$700 million](#) in oil spill recovery money to infrastructure projects.