

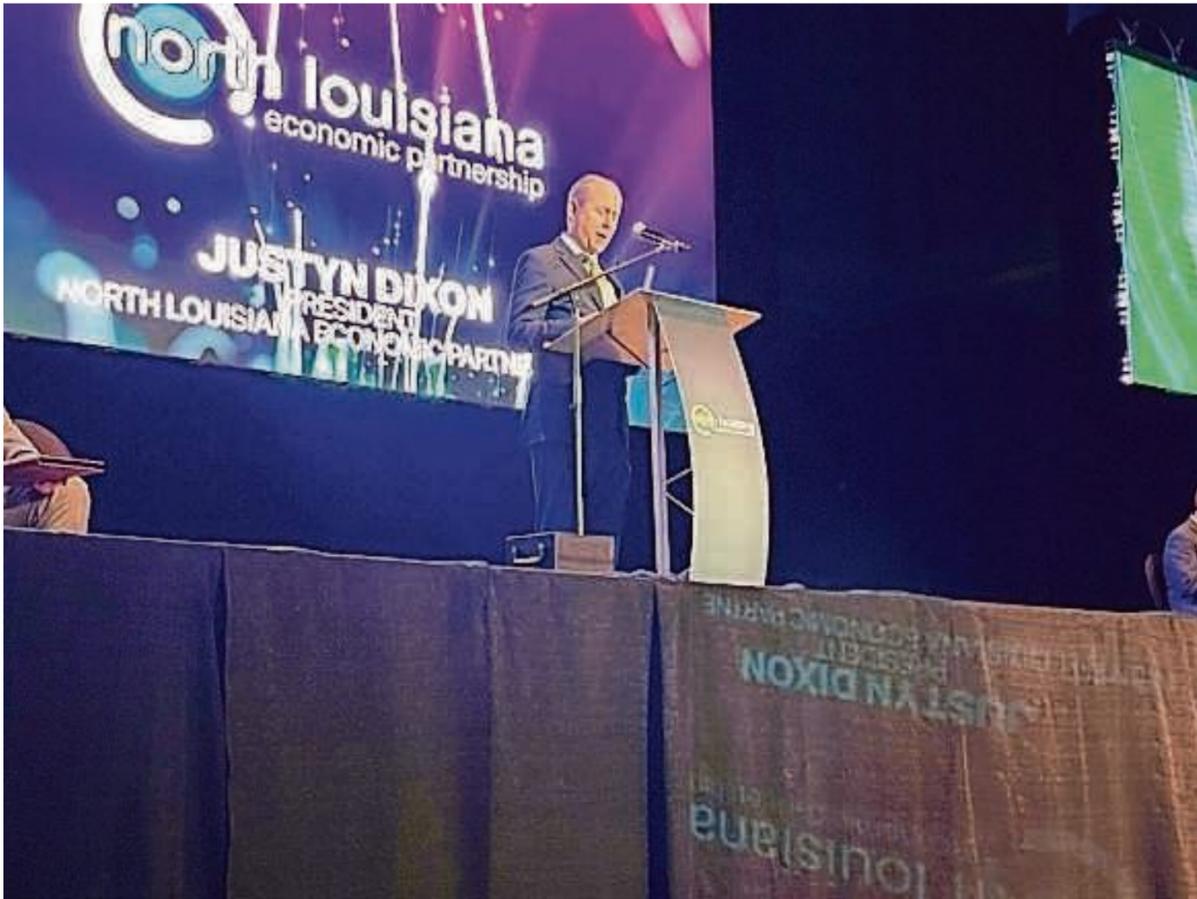


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The News-Star

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Amazon invests \$12 billion in Louisiana AI data center in Caddo-Bossier. IAN ROBINSON/USA TODAY NETWORK

LA takes first step to eliminate inspection stickers

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana took the first step to eliminate the state's vehicle inspection sticker program March 30.

The House Transportation Committee unanimously advanced Republican Stonewall Rep. Larry Bagley's bill to scrap the program in favor of a QR code sticker that vehicle owners would pay for and receive in the mail when securing their licenses plates and registration renewals.

QR code stickers would cost \$6 a year compared to \$10 a year for a new inspection sticker. Vehicle owners would no longer have to go through the inspection process at inspection sticker stations.

"We've talked about this for eight years," said Bagley, who has tried and failed seven previous times to scrap the sticker program.

But this time Republican Gov. Jeff Landry is on board to help Bagley get the bill across the finish line.

See **STICKER**, Page 2A

AI regulation clashing with business lobby

Nolan Mckendry
THE CENTER SQUARE

(The Center Square) – Louisiana lawmakers have filed more than 20 bills this session touching on artificial intelligence, but only a narrow slice of them has moved so far.

The clearest momentum has come on bills dealing with child exploitation. Senate Bill 42 by Sen. Rick Edmonds, R-Baton Rouge, which prohibits using artificial intelligence to create child sexual abuse materials, passed the Senate

36-0 and was sent to the House the next day.

Senate Bill 110 by Sen. Heather Cloud, R-Turkey Creek, bars using a child's image to train an artificial intelligence model to produce child sexual abuse materials, also advanced out of the Senate and is now pending in the House Administration of Criminal Justice Committee.

But the broader regulatory push has moved far more slowly.

Rep. Josh Carlson, R-Lafayette, told The Center Square the efforts have run

into familiar resistance from business groups wary of state-by-state regulation.

"Anything that effects business they say is bad for business," Carlson told The Center Square.

Carlson has a bill that would create a Louisiana AI Bill of Rights, restrict certain chatbot uses involving minors, create disclosure rules for bots and AI-generated advertising, and bar the state from contracting for AI products

See **AI**, Page 2A

Nungesser critical of bill to name bridge for Trump

John Ory Dupont
Post South
USA TODAY NETWORK

Legislation to put President Donald Trump's name on the proposed Mississippi River bridge between Plaquemine and Sunshine is inappropriate, according to the state official second highest in command.

No bridge or other public structure should be christened with the name of a living official, Lt. Gov.

Billy Nungesser said Friday during an interview with Jim Engster on "Talk Louisiana," a statewide program on Baton Rouge public radio station WRKF-FM 89.3.

"If you do good things in your life, after you're gone and they want to name things in your honor, that's a great tribute to what you contributed to your state and your country," Nungesser said. "But to push the name stuff after yourself while you're alive is just hard to put words to it, but yeah, I think it's ridiculous."

Both Nungesser and Engster

See **BRIDGE**, Page 2A

LOUISIANA HOUSE

Bills tighten bail for crimes against children

Sheridan White
LSU MANSHIP SCHOOL NEWS SERVICE

BATON ROUGE — Rep. Debbie Villio, R-Kenner, introduced two pieces of legislation focused on tightening Louisiana's bail laws for individuals convicted of certain crimes against children.

Both measures advanced without opposition in the House Administration of Criminal Justice Committee, reflecting broad concern among lawmakers about gaps in the current system.

The bills were prompted by a recent highly controversial case in which an individual convicted of aggravated rape of an 8-year-old was granted post-conviction bail so that he could take care of his mother at home.

Lawmakers were particularly alarmed because the individual was living near the victim, raising serious concerns about public safety and the protection of vulnerable children.

"I think that is so offensive, so I

See **BAIL**, Page 2A



Rep. Debbie Villio, R-Kenner, has authored two bills that would tighten Louisiana's bail laws for those convicted of major crimes against children. PIPER HUTCHINSON/LSU MANSHIP SCHOOL NEWS SERVICE

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