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LANewslink

## **Ethics Bill Dies!**

### **What will the rest of the country think?**

It's over. The 2007 session of the Louisiana legislature has come to an end, and despite some positive highlights, lawmakers are likely to get a pounding for what they didn't do.

Using one parliamentary tactic after another, the legislature has killed the long-running effort to tighten the state ethics law for Louisiana politicians. What will the rest of the country think?

Will legislators and the governor be forced to tell you where they get their money?

Representative Michael Jackson of Baton Rouge has a bill to make them do just that. It first included local officials in the list for mandatory disclosure. Representative Jackson (D-Baton Rouge) says, "If we're going to have income disclosure, let's talk about it across the board, let's not isolate the legislature. Let's talk about everybody."

Senator Robert Adley of Benton says the legislature should not tell other bodies of government what to do, so in the name of compromise, local officials got taken out of the bill. Senator Adley (D-Benton) says, "The only reason locals were ever put in this bill was in an effort to kill it. The legislature does this time and time again."

That's exactly what happened. The House and Senate could not agree on a compromise, so legislators still do not have to tell you how they get their money. The conference committee of three senators and three House members could not agree on a compromise. The issue cannot be brought up again for a vote until another session is called.