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## EDITORIAL: A change in image

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Gov. Bobby Jindal argued for months that beefing up the state's ethics laws would help Louisiana shed its image as a den of corruption.

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It didn't take long for the transformation to begin.

Mere days after the governor's special session on ethics reform ended, the Center for Public Integrity gave the state credit for vastly improving its financial disclosure rules.

The center is a nonpartisan research organization based in Washington that ranks government transparency and accountability. The group hasn't reworked its entire disclosure rankings but gave the state 99 out of a possible 100 points for the new requirements on personal financial disclosure by state lawmakers and other public officials.

Louisiana's old lax standards for lawmakers had scored only 43 points out of 100, which ranked 44th nationally. The state's position almost certainly will improve dramatically when the rankings are recalculated.

A poor reputation can't be changed overnight, but the governor's devotion to raising the ethical bar in Louisiana is already making a difference.