SLS 20RS-942 **ORIGINAL**

2020 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

BY SENATOR FIELDS

STUDENTS. Requests the Board of Regents and the postsecondary education management boards to adopt a flexible and holistic admissions policy for summer and fall 2020 semesters due to COVID-19.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents and the postsecondary education management boards to adopt a flexible and holistic admissions policy for the summer and fall semesters of the 2020 academic year, due to the disruption caused throughout the state's postsecondary educational system by the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS, our colleges and universities responded quickly and decisively to the public health emergency caused by COVID-19 by closing campus buildings, enabling faculty and staff to work from home, and moving instruction online in record time; and

WHEREAS, the current admission process poses an additional challenge for new students and transfer students who seek to enroll in a postsecondary education institution; and

WHEREAS, it is clear that existing admission policies, standards, and criteria were not created to address current prevailing circumstances that are beyond the control of both students and postsecondary institutions; and

WHEREAS, a student might not be able to meet existing admission standards because his high school, college, or university had to shift to online instruction with varying degrees of success, reduce course offerings, or institute a pass/fail grading system, which can negatively impact a student's grade point average; and

WHEREAS, certain student test scores may not be available as testing companies, including ACT and SAT, postpone or cancel testing dates and qualifying exams for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses are negatively impacted; and

WHEREAS, every student deserves an admissions process that is fair, realistic, and attainable; given the educational landscape significantly disrupted by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, flexible, holistic admission policies and criteria will ensure that prospective students have a full and fair shot, despite the fact that they are currently studying under dramatically different and, for many, highly stressful circumstances; and

WHEREAS, colleges and universities across the country, including the University of California, are significantly easing admission standards in response to the unprecedented upheaval in the educational system caused by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has every confidence that Louisiana's postsecondary education management boards and institutions, with support from the Board of Regents, will fully embrace this call for flexibility in evaluating a student's application for admissions and adopt admission standards that remove every possible barrier to student admission.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents and the postsecondary education management boards to adopt a flexible and holistic admissions policy for the summer and fall semesters of the 2020 academic year, due to the disruptions caused throughout the state's postsecondary educational system by the COVID-19 pandemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of higher education, the chairman of the Board of Regents and each of the four postsecondary education management boards, and the president of each postsecondary education system.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

SCR 52 Original 2020 Regular Session Fields

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