

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 89

BY REPRESENTATIVE STOKES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents and the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System to study jointly the possibility of revising the classification and admission standards of the University of New Orleans and the Board of Regents and the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College to study jointly the possibility of revising the classification and admission standards of Southern University at New Orleans and to submit a report of their findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, minimum admission standards for each state university vary according to its classification by the Board of Regents as a flagship, statewide, or regional university; and

WHEREAS, as the state's flagship university, Louisiana State University has the highest admission standards, followed by the statewide universities, which are the University of New Orleans, Louisiana Tech University, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; all other four-year universities are designated as regional universities, and their admission standards are lower than those for the three statewide universities; and

WHEREAS, in addition to a specified high school core curriculum, a student must attain an overall minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 to qualify for admission to any public university; and

WHEREAS, beyond these requirements, a student must also attain either a minimum composite ACT score or a minimum GPA on core high school courses, and the baselines on the score and GPA differ based on the university's classification; for admission to the

flagship university, a student must have a minimum GPA on the core courses of 3.0 or a minimum ACT score of 25; for admission to a statewide university, a student must have a minimum GPA on the core courses of 2.5 or a minimum ACT score of 23; and for admission to a regional university, a student must have a minimum GPA on the core courses of 2.0 or a minimum ACT score of 20; and

WHEREAS, according to the Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education in Louisiana: 2011, the University of New Orleans (UNO) is a comprehensive university with a mission to educate undergraduate and graduate students in a variety of arts, sciences, and professional programs and to conduct research in these fields; and

WHEREAS, UNO attracted nearly fifty million dollars in extramural research and training awards in Fiscal Year 2016 and is classified by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as a doctoral research university with higher research, one of only two Louisiana universities with this classification, which is the second highest Carnegie status that can be achieved; and

WHEREAS, under the current Board of Regents classification system and associated admission standards, there are those who question whether UNO is able to properly fulfill its mission for the New Orleans Metropolitan Statistical Area, which had a 2016 population of approximately one million two hundred fifty thousand persons and an average ACT score of 19.7 for the 2015-2016 school year, and who believe that a new classification of urban research institution is necessary to provide sufficient opportunities to conduct applied research while serving both regional and state citizens electing to pursue education and training at UNO, the city's only public research institution; and

WHEREAS, according to the Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education in Louisiana: 2011, Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO), as the only public, historically black university in New Orleans, is primarily a teaching institution whose mission is successful education of undergraduate students and services to the employers and communities in its region; and

WHEREAS, under the Board of Regents classification system and associated admission standards, many are concerned about whether SUNO is able to properly fulfill this mission in its region and believe that reclassification or modification of the admission standards is needed in order for SUNO to successfully fulfill its mission.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents and the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System to study jointly the possibility of revising the classification and admission standards of the University of New Orleans and the Board of Regents and the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College to study jointly the possibility of revising the classification and admission standards of Southern University at New Orleans and to submit a report of their findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Regents, the commissioner of higher education, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, the president of the University of Louisiana System, the president of the University of New Orleans, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the president of the Southern University System, and the president of Southern University at New Orleans.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE