

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 114

BY SENATOR MORRISH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents, in consultation with the postsecondary education management boards, to update the comprehensive state student financial aid plan in order to better meet the needs of all prospective Louisiana postsecondary education students, both traditional and non-traditional, and better link students with careers demanded by Louisiana's economy.

WHEREAS, current law requires the Board of Regents to develop and maintain a comprehensive state student financial aid plan that supports the Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education; and

WHEREAS, in developing the state student financial aid plan, the board is to consider all sources of financial aid available to students to attend postsecondary education and the financial needs of such students; and

WHEREAS, student financial aid includes federal, state, and institutional aid that is provided in the form of grants, loans, work-study program, tuition and fee waivers, and scholarships; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education are to review and approve the state student financial aid plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents has not updated the state student financial aid plan since 2007; and

WHEREAS, half of Louisiana's working-age adults have a high school diploma or less, and are lacking the skills and education needed to fully participate in the economy; and

WHEREAS, financial barriers prevent many working-age adults from pursuing training and postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive state student financial aid plan that includes a component for working-age adults who are underemployed or unemployed could provide greater access to postsecondary education and help fill voids in state workforce demands.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents, in consultation with the postsecondary education management boards, to update the comprehensive state student financial aid plan in order to better meet the needs of all prospective Louisiana postsecondary education students, both traditional and non-traditional, and better link students with careers demanded by Louisiana's economy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of higher education, the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, the president of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College System, the president of the Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College System, and the president of the University of Louisiana System.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE