

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY SENATOR DORSEY-COLOMB

POSTSECONDARY ED. Requests the Board of Regents and LCTCS to study the feasibility of merging Capital Area Technical College and Baton Rouge Community College.

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents and the Board of Supervisors for Community and Technical Colleges to study the feasibility of merging Capital Area Technical College and Baton Rouge Community College in order to more adequately address the educational needs of students and the economic and workforce development needs of the greater Baton Rouge area.

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(D)(2) of the Constitution of Louisiana provides, relative to public institutions of postsecondary education, that it is a power, duty, and responsibility of the Board of Regents to approve a proposed degree program, department of instruction, division, or similar subdivision; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(D)(3)(a) of the Constitution of Louisiana further provides that it also is a power, duty, and responsibility of the board to study the need for and feasibility of creating a new institution of postsecondary education or merging institutions; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(D)(3)(b) of the Constitution of Louisiana specifies that if the creation of a new institution or a merger is proposed, the Board of Regents shall report its written findings and recommendations to the legislature within one year and specifies further that only after the report has been filed, or after one year from the

1 receipt of a request for a report from the legislature if no report is filed, may the legislature  
2 take affirmative action on such a proposal and then only by a law enacted by two-thirds of  
3 the elected members of each house; and

4 WHEREAS, community college services, provided through the Louisiana  
5 Community and Technical College System, have proven effective in serving individuals and  
6 communities by offering targeted academic programs, technical education, and occupational  
7 training programs designed to meet the state's workforce and economic development needs;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the merger of Capital Area Technical College and Baton Rouge  
10 Community College will more adequately address the educational needs of students and the  
11 economic and workforce development needs in the greater Baton Rouge area; and

12 WHEREAS, the merger of Capital Area Technical College and Baton Rouge  
13 Community College will provide access to improved opportunities and offerings to an under-  
14 served area of the state.

15 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
16 urge and request the Board of Regents and the Board of Supervisors for Community and  
17 Technical Colleges to study the feasibility of merging Capital Area Technical College and  
18 Baton Rouge Community College in order to more adequately address the educational needs  
19 of students and the economic and workforce development needs of the greater Baton Rouge  
20 area.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana further requests the  
22 Board of Regents to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the  
23 Senate Committee on Education and House Committee on Education, not later than sixty  
24 days prior to the beginning of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
26 commissioner of higher education, the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical  
27 College System, the regional director of Capital Area Technical College, and the chancellor  
28 of Baton Rouge Community College.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Nancy Vicknair.

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DIGEST

Dorsey-Colomb

SCR No. 17

Requests the Bd. of Regents and the Bd. of Supervisors for Community and Technical Colleges to study the feasibility of merging Capital Area Technical College and Baton Rouge Community College.

Further requests the Bd. of Regents to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate and House committees on education not later than 60 days prior to the 2013 R.S.