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## DIGEST

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HB 152 Reengrossed

2015 Regular Session

Broadwater

**Abstract:** Authorizes the public postsecondary education management boards to establish and adjust fees charged to students.

Proposed law provides that the legislature authorizes the public postsecondary education management boards to establish fees and adjust fee amounts at institutions under their respective management and supervision. Provides that such authority shall apply for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years only and that the authority to increase fees pursuant thereto shall terminate on June 30, 2017. Provides that such authority specifically includes authority to impose per credit fees and differential fees for certain programs and to charge proportional amounts for part-time students and summer sessions. Provides that except for the LSU Health Sciences Centers, the pharmacy program at the University of La. at Monroe, and the Southern University Law Center, the revenue per full time equivalent student from all tuition and fee amounts charged to a student plus the revenue per full time equivalent student from state and local appropriations shall not exceed the national average of total per full time equivalent student revenue from state appropriations, local appropriations, tuition, and fees as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) by Carnegie classification, which maximum amount may be annually adjusted based on the most recent full time equivalent funding statistics as reported by the NCES and adjusted to the current fiscal year using the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI). Provides that the total of all tuition and fee amounts charged to a student enrolled in the LSU Health Sciences Centers, the pharmacy program at the University of La. at Monroe, and the Southern University Law Center shall not exceed the tuition and fees charged, as reported by the NCES, of national peers selected by the institution, which maximum amount may be annually adjusted based on the most recent tuition and fee amounts per full time equivalent student as reported by the NCES and adjusted to the current fiscal year using the HEPI.

Present law (R.S. 17:3139 et seq. - the GRAD Act), authorizes specific tuition and fee increases at public postsecondary education institutions contingent on whether those institutions meet performance goals established by agreement with the Bd. of Regents. Proposed law provides that the authority to establish and adjust fees as authorized by proposed law is not subject to such contingencies.

Proposed law requires each institution to allocate not less than 5% of revenues realized pursuant to proposed law to provide need-based financial assistance to students who are eligible to receive a Pell Grant.

Proposed law prohibits revenues generated by fees imposed pursuant to proposed law from being

used for any other purpose except for support of the university at which the fees were collected.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:3351.20)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Limit total tuition and fee amounts based on certain national per full time equivalent student averages and amounts as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Limit proposed law authority to establish fees to the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years and provide that proposed law authority to increase fees shall terminate on June 30, 2017.
2. Add that revenues generated by fees imposed pursuant to proposed law may not be used for any other purpose except for support of the university at which they were collected.
3. Add the pharmacy program at the University of La. at Monroe to the list of institutions that also includes the LSU Health Sciences Centers and the Southern University Law Center for purposes of calculating the "cap" of total tuition and fee amounts.
4. Clarify how the "cap" of total tuition and fee amounts is calculated for national comparison purposes.