

2016 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 446

BY SENATOR HEWITT

POSTSECONDARY ED. Requires the Board of Regents to conduct a comprehensive review of the postsecondary needs of the state and each of its regions. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT
2 To enact R.S. 17:3140, relative to postsecondary education; to provide relative to a
3 comprehensive review of the educational demands of the state and its regions; to
4 provide for an evaluation of the state's postsecondary education assets, needs, gaps
5 and barriers; to provide for a report of the findings and recommendations; and to
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3140 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **§3140. Evaluation of the state's delivery of public postsecondary education**
10 **delivery system**

11 **A. The Board of Regents shall, in collaboration with the Department of**
12 **Economic Development and the Louisiana Workforce Commission, conduct a**
13 **comprehensive review and evaluation of the educational demands of the state**
14 **and its workforce development areas as provided in R.S. 23:2192. The board**
15 **shall review all aspects of the state's public postsecondary education enterprise**
16 **in order to ensure it is operating in a comprehensive, efficient, cost- effective,**
17 **and integrated manner that best meets the academic needs of the state's**

1 citizenry, and meets the state's short-term and long-term workforce and
2 economic development needs as forecasted through the Comprehensive Labor
3 Market Information System as provided in R.S. 23:71, et seq. and that considers
4 the needs of targeted cluster industries as provided in R.S. 23:76. Every public
5 postsecondary educational asset, including credit and noncredit academic
6 programs, facilities and properties, faculties, and fiscal resources shall be
7 reviewed in light of the state's current and forecasted educational needs. The
8 board shall identify all gaps and barriers to achieving a comprehensive,
9 efficient, cost-effective and integrated postsecondary education system that
10 produces an educated citizenry that is capable of fulfilling the state's workforce
11 and economic development needs, by region.

12 B. The board shall submit a written report detailing its findings and
13 recommendations relative to the assets, needs, gaps and barriers to the Senate
14 and House Committees on Education by no later than forty-five days before the
15 2017 Legislative Session. The report shall include the following:

16 (1) A description of assets, including:

17 (a) The role, scope and mission of each institution of public
18 postsecondary education in the state.

19 (b) Academic and non-academic programs offered at each public
20 postsecondary education institution and enrollment and completion data for
21 each program for the last ten years. The current program cost per student at
22 each institution shall also be reported.

23 (c) Current centers of excellence, as defined by the Board of Regents, in
24 each institution, with explanation of how each center fits into the institution's
25 role, scope and mission and aids in meeting the workforce and economic
26 development needs of the region or the state as a whole.

27 (d) A list of all immovable property owned or leased by the state's public
28 postsecondary institutions. The list shall also include a description of each
29 facility as follows:

- 1 **(i) Age of the facility.**
- 2 **(ii) Square footage.**
- 3 **(iii) Usage purpose.**
- 4 **(iv) Space utilization assessment and the methodology utilized to**
- 5 **determine space utilization.**
- 6 **(v) Condition of the facility.**
- 7 **(vi) Fitness for prescribed use.**
- 8 **(vii) Building defect data, including code violations.**
- 9 **(viii) Bonded indebtedness and contractual obligations.**
- 10 **(e) Institutional data as provided pursuant to R.S. 17:3139.2(5), and the**
- 11 **following:**
- 12 **(i) Amount of institutional financial aid provided to students.**
- 13 **(ii) Faculty information including total faculty and percent by full-time**
- 14 **and part-time status; student-to-faculty ratios; percentage distribution of**
- 15 **full-time instructional faculty by rank; full-time instructional average salary by**
- 16 **rank; part-time faculty and assistants as a percent of total instructional faculty;**
- 17 **number of full-time administrators; and number of full-time staff.**
- 18 **(iii) Percentage of lower-level classes taught by full-time faculty.**
- 19 **(iv) Percentage of students enrolled in remedial courses.**
- 20 **(v) Percentage of students admitted by exception to admission standards.**
- 21 **(vi) Job placement or rates by program.**
- 22 **(2) Description of needs, including:**
- 23 **(a) Current and forecasted educational demands by each region and the**
- 24 **state as a whole. Educational demand shall take into account, the forecasted**
- 25 **occupational demand for current, emerging, and targeted cluster industries.**
- 26 **The report shall also include any issues related to accurately forecasting**
- 27 **educational demand.**
- 28 **(3) Description of gaps, which for the purpose of this Section, are defined**
- 29 **as either needs that exceed assets, or assets that exceed needs.**

1 **(4) Recommendations regarding how to efficiently and cost-effectively**
2 **close the gaps to deliver postsecondary education by each region in order to**
3 **meet the forecasted educational demand. The recommendations shall include**
4 **whether any of the following are needed:**

5 **(a) Merging of two or more existing postsecondary institutions.**

6 **(b) Converting a non-degree granting postsecondary institution to an**
7 **institution which grants degrees.**

8 **(c) Converting a college or university which is limited to offering degrees**
9 **of a lower rank than baccalaureate to a college or university that offers**
10 **baccalaureate degrees.**

11 **(d) Converting a college or university which offers baccalaureate degrees**
12 **to a college or university that is limited to offering degrees of a lower rank.**

13 **(e) Transferring a college or university from one postsecondary**
14 **management board to another.**

15 **(f) Closing a postsecondary educational institution.**

16 **(g) Closing or consolidating any program at an institution or**
17 **coordinating any program across certain institutions.**

18 **(h) Adding a center of excellence to an institution, shifting a center of**
19 **excellence to a different institution, or coordinating resources between**
20 **institutions to develop a joint center of excellence.**

21 **(i) Maximizing utilization of all facilities in each region, including**
22 **sharing facilities between institutions in a region, closing or demolishing certain**
23 **facilities.**

24 **(j) Centralizing administrative services.**

25 **(5) Description of barriers, including:**

26 **(a) Bonded indebtedness, contractual obligations, and fitness of facilities.**

27 **(b) Accreditation issues.**

28 **(c) Compatibility of administrative services.**

29 **(d) Funding.**

- (6) An executive summary of recommendations to ensure the state's public postsecondary education system is operating in an efficient, cost effective and integrated manner.

Proposed law provides that each public postsecondary institution, management board , and system shall fully cooperate with the Board of Regents and provide data and assistance as requested.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:3140)