

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 586

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEVE CARTER

STUDENT/TUITION: Authorizes the public postsecondary education management boards to increase tuition and fee amounts under certain circumstances

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3351.21, relative to tuition and mandatory fee amounts for public  
3 postsecondary education institutions; to authorize each public postsecondary  
4 education management board to increase tuition and mandatory fee amounts if an  
5 institution meets certain criteria; to provide for limitations, waivers, and  
6 effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3351.21 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §3351.21. Public postsecondary education management boards; tuition and  
10 attendance fee increases; conditions; waivers

11 A. In addition to the authority granted by any other provision of law,  
12 including but not limited to R.S. 17:3139.5, and in accordance with Article VII,  
13 Section 2.1(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana, the Board of Supervisors of  
14 Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of  
15 Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the  
16 Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, and the Board of  
17 Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges may impose at an institution  
18 under its respective management and supervision a one-time increase in tuition and  
19 mandatory attendance fees if the institution meets both of the following criteria:

1           (1) Its approved annual tuition and mandatory fee amount is less than the  
2           average amount of annual tuition and mandatory fees for Southern Regional  
3           Education Board peer institutions. The average amount shall be based on the most  
4           recent Southern Regional Education Board publication of tuition and mandatory fees  
5           for all institutions in the institution's Southern Regional Education Board  
6           institutional category.

7           (2) Its graduation and freshman retention rates are at least equal to the  
8           average graduation and freshman retention rates for the same peer institutions.

9           B. The increase in tuition and mandatory fees authorized by this Section:

10           (1) Shall be limited to an amount that raises the institution's tuition and  
11           mandatory fees to, but does not exceed the average amount of annual tuition and  
12           mandatory fees for Southern Regional Education Board peer institutions.

13           (2) May remain in effect after it is imposed but shall not thereafter be  
14           increased.

15           C. Prior to imposing the increase in tuition and fee amounts authorized by  
16           this Section, each public postsecondary education management board shall establish  
17           criteria for waiving the amounts in cases of financial hardship as determined by the  
18           board. Information relative to such waivers and the criteria and procedures for  
19           obtaining a waiver shall be reported to the Board of Regents and shall be made  
20           available to all prospective students in a timely manner such that each student is  
21           informed of the availability of a waiver prior to the student making a final decision  
22           concerning attendance.

23           D. The authority to impose the tuition and mandatory fee increase provided  
24           in this Section shall include the authority to impose proportional amounts for  
25           part-time students, for intersessions, and for summer sessions.

26           E. For purposes of this Section, "Southern Regional Education Board peer  
27           institutions" shall mean those institutions as provided by the Southern Regional  
28           Education Board for each institution's institutional category.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 586 Engrossed

2016 Regular Session

Steve Carter

**Abstract:** Authorizes public postsecondary education management boards to impose a one-time tuition and fee increase if an institution meets graduation and freshman retention rate criteria.

Proposed law authorizes each public postsecondary education management board to impose at an institution under its respective management and supervision a one-time increase in tuition and mandatory attendance fees if an institution meets both of the following criteria:

- (1) Its approved annual tuition and mandatory fee amount is less than the average amount of annual tuition and mandatory fees for Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) peer institutions; provides that the average amount shall be based on the most recent SREB publication of tuition and mandatory fees for all institutions in the institution's institutional category.
- (2) Its graduation and freshman retention rates are at least equal to the average graduation and freshman retention rates for the same peer institutions.

Proposed law:

- (1) Limits the increase to an amount which raises the institution's tuition and mandatory fees to, but does not exceed, the average amount of annual tuition and mandatory fees for SREB peer institutions.
- (2) Authorizes the increase to remain in effect but prohibits subsequent increases.
- (3) Authorizes boards to impose proportional amounts for part-time students, intersessions, and summer sessions and requires boards to establish criteria for hardship waivers and to report information relative to such waivers to the Bd. of Regents and make it available to prospective students.
- (4) Defines "SREB peer institutions" as those institutions as provided by the SREB for each institution's institutional category.

(Adds R.S. 17:3351.21)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Remove prohibition on imposition of tuition and fee increase prior to Fall 2019.
2. Specify that the retention rate that determines an institution's eligibility for a tuition and fee increase is its freshman retention rate.