

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY REPRESENTATIVE TERRY LANDRY

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates March 17, 2026, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Day at the state capitol

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To designate Tuesday, March 17, 2026, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities
3 (HBCU) Day at the state capitol.

4 WHEREAS, HBCUs play a vital role in expanding educational opportunities,
5 strengthening communities, and preparing generations of leaders who contribute to the
6 economic, cultural, and civic vitality of the state; and

7 WHEREAS, for nearly two centuries, HBCUs have stood as enduring symbols of
8 resilience, opportunity, and excellence; opened doors to higher education; and cultivated
9 generations of scholars, leaders, innovators, and public servants whose contributions
10 continue to enrich Louisiana, the nation, and the world; and

11 WHEREAS, HBCUs have not only transformed lives but also strengthened the
12 economy and workforce by aligning academic programs with the evolving needs of society
13 and preparing graduates who excel as scientists, doctors, educators, artists, lawyers, judges,
14 engineers, entrepreneurs, public servants, and community leaders whose impact resonates
15 across every sector of society; and

16 WHEREAS, the HBCU tradition of excellence, leadership, and service is powerfully
17 embodied in the life of Dr. Norman C. Francis, a Xavier University of Louisiana graduate
18 who went on to integrate Loyola University New Orleans College of Law; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Francis provided more than fifty-eight years of service to Xavier,
20 including forty-seven as its president; he had the distinction of becoming one of the longest
21 serving university presidents in the nation; through his visionary leadership, unwavering

1 dedication, and commitment to opportunity, he transformed Xavier into a national model of
2 higher education that has shaped generations of scholars, health professionals, and civic
3 leaders and expanded access, fostered growth, and advanced academic excellence for
4 students across Louisiana and the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, Louisiana's HBCUs have distinguished themselves, both nationally and
6 in the state, in numerous ways; and

7 WHEREAS, Dillard University continues its longstanding tradition of academic
8 excellence and national competitiveness; the university's nationally recognized Honda
9 Campus All-Star Challenge team advanced to the 2025 National Championship Tournament
10 in Los Angeles for the third consecutive year, and the university participated in a premier
11 academic quiz competition that celebrates scholarship and teamwork; the university recently
12 received a historic \$19 million gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, which is the largest
13 private donation in the university's history, to support student success, scholarships, and
14 institutional advancement; and

15 WHEREAS, Grambling State University remains a pillar of opportunity and
16 leadership in Louisiana and has advanced academic innovation through the establishment
17 of the state's first Ph.D. program in criminology and justice administration; the university
18 also celebrates a proud legacy of achievement marked by one hundred years of Tiger
19 Athletics and one hundred years of the World Famed Tiger Marching Band; and

20 WHEREAS, Southern University and A&M College, the flagship institution of the
21 Southern University System and a Carnegie Research 2 institution, continues more than one
22 hundred forty-six years of leadership in higher education while opening a
23 forty-eight-million-dollar state-of-the-art STEM complex and Global Innovation and
24 Welcome Center and celebrating the internationally recognized "Human Jukebox" Marching
25 Band being named ESPN's Band of the Year for 2025; and

26 WHEREAS, Southern University Law Center continues to expand access to justice
27 and experiential legal education through the construction of a new Clinical Legal Education
28 Building, which strengthens opportunities for students while enhancing legal services for the
29 Baton Rouge community; and

1 WHEREAS, Southern University at New Orleans, which celebrates seventy years
2 of excellence and service to the Greater New Orleans community, recently hosted the
3 first-ever Egyptian-commissioned replica King Tutankhamun exhibition at a historically
4 black college or university and celebrated the SUNO Men's Basketball Team capturing the
5 2026 HBCU Athletic Conference Tournament Championship, its first conference title since
6 2012; and

7 WHEREAS, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center
8 continues to advance agricultural innovation and workforce development as the only
9 historically black college or university selected as a site for the United States Department
10 of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service Laboratory; the university also provides
11 hands-on learning through programs such as its viticulture and enology research vineyard
12 and the VET Explore program preparing future veterinarians; and

13 WHEREAS, Southern University at Shreveport continues to strengthen workforce
14 development and community impact in North Louisiana through the Aerospace Technology
15 Center, which serves as the region's premier training hub for aviation technicians; the
16 university also expands community partnerships, including a re-entry workforce training
17 initiative with the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, and advances entrepreneurship through the
18 Roy Griggs School of Business; and

19 WHEREAS, Xavier University of Louisiana continues its legacy of academic
20 excellence established under the leadership of Dr. Norman C. Francis and remains a national
21 leader in preparing students for careers in health professions; the university ranks among the
22 nation's leading producers of African American undergraduates who go on to complete
23 medical school and is one of the top producers of African American Doctor of Pharmacy
24 graduates, which contributes significantly to the educational, cultural, and economic vitality
25 of the State of Louisiana; and

26 WHEREAS, it is most fitting to commend Louisiana's Historically Black Colleges
27 and Universities and their numerous alumni for their outstanding achievements and
28 contributions to their local communities, the state of Louisiana, the United States, and the
29 world.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Tuesday, March 17, 2026, as Historically
3 Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Day at the state capitol and does hereby
4 acknowledge Louisiana's HBCUs for their invaluable contributions to our residents and state.

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)]

HR 24 Original

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