

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 264 (Substitute for House Resolution No. 80 by Representative Carlson)

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON

BUDGETARY CONTROLS: Directs the Board of Regents and certain Boards of Supervisors of public postsecondary education institutions to conduct a fiscal review of all state and federal funds expended in furtherance of certain executive budget objectives and to transmit their findings to the legislative auditor for consolidation into a written report to the legislature

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To direct the Board of Regents, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana
3 System, the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural
4 and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and
5 Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the Board of Supervisors of Community
6 and Technical Colleges to each cause their respective internal auditor to conduct a
7 fiscal review of all state and federal funds expended in furtherance of the executive
8 budget objective requiring numeric increases in "underrepresented minority (all races
9 other than white, Asian, non-residents & unknown/not reported)" completers from
10 Fiscal Year 2021-2022 through Fiscal Year 2025-2026; to transmit each such fiscal
11 review to the legislative auditor; and to direct the legislative auditor to consolidate
12 those submissions into a single written report to the legislature.

13 WHEREAS, the Executive Budget Supporting Document for Higher Education for
14 Fiscal Year 2025-2026, and similar documents for Fiscal Years 2021-2022 through
15 2024-2025, include a specific objective requiring numeric increases in "underrepresented
16 minority (all races other than white, Asian, non-residents & unknown/not reported)"
17 completers in a given academic year, adopted at the statewide policy level and mirrored in
18 institution-level budget objectives across multiple systems and campuses; and

1 WHEREAS, this specific "underrepresented minority completers" objective appears
2 in the following program objectives within the executive budget supporting documents,
3 which constitute the known universe of objectives identified through review of executive
4 budget supporting documents for Fiscal Years 2021-2022 through 2025-2026:

5 19-671 Board of Regents:

6 6711 - Board of Regents, Objective 6711-09

7 19-600 Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors:

8 6003 - LSU Alexandria, Objective 6003-09

9 6007 - LSU Shreveport, Objective 6007-08

10 19-615 Southern University Board of Supervisors:

11 6151 - Southern University Board of Supervisors, Objective 6151-11

12 6152 - Southern University-Agricultural & Mechanical College (Baton
13 Rouge), Objective 6152-08

14 6154 - Southern University at New Orleans, Objective 6154-08

15 19-620 University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors:

16 6203 - Grambling State University, Objective 6203-08

17 6204 - Louisiana Tech University, Objective 6204-08

18 6205 - McNeese State University, Objective 6205-08

19 6206 - University of Louisiana at Monroe, Objective 6206-08

20 6209 - University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Objective 6209-08

21 19-649 Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges Board of Supervisors
22 (LCTCS):

23 6492 - Baton Rouge Community College

24 6493 - Delgado Community College

25 6494 - Nunez Community College

26 6495 - Bossier Parish Community College

27 6496 - South Louisiana Community College

28 6497 - River Parishes Community College

29 6498 - Louisiana Delta Community College

30 6499 - Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College

- 1 649A - SOWELA Technical Community College
- 2 649B - L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College
- 3 649D - Northshore Technical Community College
- 4 649E - Central Louisiana Technical Community College; and

5 WHEREAS, public funds appropriated by the Legislature have been expended in
6 furtherance of this objective, including but not limited to staff salaries and benefits, targeted
7 recruitment and retention programs, scholarships and financial awards, data reporting
8 infrastructure, and vendor and consultant contracts; and

9 WHEREAS, the Louisiana House of Representatives has a constitutional and
10 statutory duty to exercise oversight over the expenditure of public funds.

11 WHEREAS, pursuant to R.S. 17:3351(I), each postsecondary education management
12 board identified in this Resolution—the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana
13 System, the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and
14 Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and
15 Mechanical College, and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical
16 Colleges—is required by law to maintain an internal audit function and an office of the chief
17 audit executive conforming to the Institute of Internal Auditors' International Standards for
18 the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing, with existing access to the financial records,
19 personnel cost allocations, grant compliance documentation, and vendor contract files of
20 every campus and institution within its system; and

21 WHEREAS, R.S. 17:3138.6 requires the Board of Regents to maintain an internal
22 audit function, which is administered through a contracted audit firm, to conduct annual risk
23 assessments and audits of Board of Regents programs and is subject to the same direction
24 and cooperation requirements applicable to all state agencies pursuant to R.S. 24:522(D)(1);
25 and

26 WHEREAS, pursuant to 2 CFR §200.302 and related provisions of the Uniform
27 Guidance implementing the Single Audit Act (31 U.S.C. §7501 et seq.), each institution
28 identified in this Resolution is legally required, as a condition of receiving federal financial
29 assistance, to maintain financial management systems and records that identify the source
30 and application of funds for federally-assisted activities and documentation that

1 encompasses the categories of expenditure this Resolution directs the system boards to
2 examine; and

3 WHEREAS, pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 24:522(D)(1), all state agencies
4 and their officials and staff are required by law to assist the legislative auditor and to furnish
5 such information, reports, aid, services, and assistance as the legislative auditor may request,
6 all without any cost or charge of any nature to the legislative auditor, and every board,
7 system, and institution identified in this Resolution is a state agency subject to that
8 requirement; and

9 WHEREAS, directing each system board's internal audit function to conduct the
10 fiscal review within its own system, and directing the legislative auditor to serve as the
11 consolidating and reporting authority, makes maximum use of existing audit infrastructure,
12 minimizes cost to the state, and produces a unified legislative report without requiring the
13 legislative auditor to conduct original field audit work at each institution.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
15 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the Board of Regents, the Board of Supervisors
16 for the University of Louisiana System, the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State
17 University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors of Southern
18 University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the Board of Supervisors of
19 Community and Technical Colleges to each cause their respective internal audit function to
20 conduct a fiscal review, limited in scope to all state and federal funds expended in
21 furtherance of the specific executive budget objective requiring numeric increases in
22 "underrepresented minority (all races other than white, Asian, non-residents & unknown/not
23 reported)" completers, covering each public college and university within their respective
24 system identified in this Resolution, for the period Fiscal Year 2021-2022 through Fiscal
25 Year 2025-2026.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each system board's internal audit function shall
27 conduct its review in accordance with applicable internal audit standards and the
28 standardized reporting format issued by the Performance Audit Services division of the
29 legislative auditor pursuant to this Resolution and shall identify, trace, and quantify all state

1 and federal funds expended specifically in furtherance of the "underrepresented minority
2 completers" objective, including all of the following:

- 3 (1) Staffing costs - salaries, benefits, and contract personnel for positions dedicated in
4 whole or in part to administering, tracking, or reporting on the "underrepresented
5 minority completers" objective.
- 6 (2) Programmatic expenditures - recruitment initiatives, retention services, scholarships,
7 grants, stipends, and other financial awards targeted or prioritized on the basis of
8 "underrepresented minority" status as defined in the objective.
- 9 (3) Administrative and technology costs - data systems, reporting infrastructure,
10 consultants, and third-party vendors engaged to collect, analyze, or report
11 race-classified student completion data specifically in furtherance of this objective.
- 12 (4) Performance-based funding or incentive payments received from the Board of
13 Regents or any system board, in whole or in part, based on attainment of or progress
14 toward the "underrepresented minority completers" objective.
- 15 (5) Any federal grant funds received that were conditioned upon, or whose use was
16 directed specifically in furtherance of, this objective.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each system board shall submit its completed
18 review to the legislative auditor by December 31, 2026; shall maintain all supporting
19 documentation and make it available to the legislative auditor upon request; and shall on the
20 same day that the submission is made to the legislative auditor certify to the Speaker of the
21 House of Representatives and the President of the Senate that the submission is complete;

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Performance Audit Services division of the
23 legislative auditor shall, upon receipt of all system board submissions, consolidate the fiscal
24 reviews into a single written report and transmit that report to the Speaker of the House of
25 Representatives, the President of the Senate, the House and Senate Committees on
26 Education, the House Appropriations Committee, and the Senate Finance Committee, no
27 later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2027 Regular Session of the Legislature
28 of Louisiana, or as soon thereafter as practicable. The consolidated report shall include, at
29 minimum:

1 (1) A comprehensive accounting of all state and federal funds expended in furtherance
2 of the "underrepresented minority completers" objective for the audit period,
3 organized by board, system, and institution, drawn from the system board
4 submissions.

5 (2) A summary of findings for each board, system, and institution identified in this
6 Resolution.

7 (3) Any observations by the legislative auditor regarding the completeness, consistency,
8 or quality of the system board submissions.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Performance Audit Services division of the
10 legislative auditor shall issue a standardized reporting format to each system board within
11 thirty days of adoption of this Resolution, specifying the scope and documentation
12 requirements for the fiscal reviews directed herein, so as to ensure consistency and
13 comparability of submissions;

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that consistent with Louisiana Revised Statute
15 24:522(D)(1), all boards, systems, and institutions subject to this Resolution shall furnish
16 such records, data, personnel access, and assistance as the legislative auditor shall request,
17 without cost or charge of any nature to the legislative auditor;

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each system board shall conduct its fiscal review
19 and each institution within its system shall cooperate fully with its system board's internal
20 audit function, all within existing appropriations and without creating additional cost to the
21 state; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this resolution be transmitted
23 to the legislative auditor and to each system board named herein.

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)]

Directs the Board of Regents, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges to each cause their respective internal auditor to conduct a fiscal review of all state and

federal funds expended in furtherance of the executive budget objective requiring numeric increases in "underrepresented minority (all races other than white, Asian, non-residents & unknown/not reported)" completers from Fiscal Year 2021-2022 through Fiscal Year 2025-2026; to transmit each such fiscal review to the legislative auditor; and to direct the legislative auditor to consolidate those submissions into a single written report to the legislature.