

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 172

BY SENATOR REESE

A RESOLUTION

To create the Legislative Higher Education Funding and Formula Task Force to study and evaluate the funding structure of Louisiana's public postsecondary education enterprise and the allocation of funding to higher education's two-year and four-year institutions through the outcomes-based funding formula, and to provide recommendations to the legislature and the Louisiana Board of Regents regarding potential reforms, structure, and funding considerations for public postsecondary education institutions.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana recognizes postsecondary education as a critical driver of workforce development, economic competitiveness, civic engagement, and upward mobility; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana provides that the Louisiana Board of Regents shall plan, coordinate, and recommend funding for public postsecondary education, and develop a formula for equitable distribution of funds to public institutions of postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, Act 462 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature first required the Board of Regents to adopt an outcomes-based funding formula for public postsecondary education to allocate state appropriations among public postsecondary education institutions; and

WHEREAS, funding for public postsecondary education is derived from multiple sources; and

WHEREAS, a review of the history of higher education funding in Louisiana is a critical part of a comprehensive analysis of resources provided and allocated to public institutions across the state; and

WHEREAS, postsecondary institutions are facing a changing fiscal landscape, characterized by higher operating, auxiliary, and athletic costs, funding deficits, outstanding debt, fluctuating enrollment, concerns regarding affordability, student debt, institutional

stability, and changing perceptions regarding the value of obtaining a degree or credential;
and

WHEREAS, members of the legislature have recently raised questions and concerns regarding the structure, implementation, transparency, and outcomes associated with the current funding formula; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the legislature to appropriate funding for public higher education and to ensure that funds are distributed in a fair, transparent, accountable, and effective manner that advances critical performance outcomes such as student success and workforce development across the state; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of public postsecondary funding and the funding formula will provide the legislature the opportunity to both measure the adequacy of funding provided and examine whether the formula appropriately accounts for institutional missions, enrollment trends, student outcomes, regional needs, workforce priorities, and operational costs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish and provide for the Legislative Higher Education Funding and Formula Task Force to study the Louisiana Board of Regents' funding formula and related funding methodologies for public postsecondary education institutions, and to propose recommendations, together with specific proposals for legislation, by written report to the Senate Committee on Finance, House Committee on Appropriations, Senate Committee on Education, House Committee on Education, and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than February 26, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall conduct, at minimum, the following:

- (1) An assessment of historical and current funding structures and primary sources of financially supporting public postsecondary education including State General Fund appropriations, statutory dedications, federal grants, tuition and mandatory fees, auxiliary enterprises, private philanthropy, and other institutional revenues.
- (2) An assessment of historical and current formula methodologies and metrics

used in the calculation of Louisiana's public higher education funding formula for two-year and four-year institutions.

- (3) A comparative analysis of Louisiana's funding structures and funding formula with national best practices and those of regional peer states.
- (4) A longitudinal evaluation of Louisiana's postsecondary education state funding, performance-based funding metrics, accountability measures, and the changing costs of educating students.
- (5) Recommendations for legislation, if any, necessary to strengthen higher education funding to provide financial stability in Louisiana and improve the public postsecondary formula structure to drive outcomes and institutional performance in alignment with workforce needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following members:

- (1) The chair of the House Committee on Appropriations, or his designee.
- (2) The chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, or his designee.
- (3) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) Two members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.
- (5) The commissioner of higher education, or his designee.
- (6) One chancellor of a two-year community or technical college appointed by the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges System.
- (7) The president of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College System, or his designee, as an ex officio nonvoting member.
- (8) The president of the Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College System, or his designee, as an ex officio nonvoting member.
- (9) The president of the University of Louisiana System, or his designee, as an ex officio nonvoting member.
- (10) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges System, or his designee, as an ex officio nonvoting member.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall solicit information from the Division of Administration for economic forecasting expertise.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the names of designees to the task force to the secretary of the Senate no later than August 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene for its first meeting no later than September 1, 2026, at the call of the commissioner of higher education, and at the first meeting, the president of the Senate shall appoint a chairman and the members shall elect other officers as the task force may deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the submission of its report or February 26, 2027, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of higher education, the president of the Louisiana State University System, the president of the Southern University System, the president of the University of Louisiana System, and the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges System.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE