

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 486 (SB 304)

2026 Regular Session

Edmonds

Prior law provided that public colleges and universities are to be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

New law provides that a public college or university may seek a new accreditor for the institution or may seek a new accreditor for a specialized program or unit so long as the selection of an accreditor and the process of seeking accreditation complies with new law.

New law provides that, in coordination with each higher education management board, the Bd. of Regents has the power to set policy regarding accreditation of colleges and universities. New law provides that Bd. of Regents is to adopt policies to allow colleges and universities, subject to the approval of their higher education management board, to seek a new institutional accreditor from a list of accreditors recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education. New law provides that the Bd. of Regents is to identify a list of units, programs, and professional schools that require specialized accreditation and a corresponding list of recognized accreditors.

New law provides that, if a college or university seeks a new accreditor, then the institution is to apply for approval with their institution's higher education management board. New law further provides that any new accreditor must:

- (1) Promote credential success and workforce outcomes.
- (2) Promote educational quality and affordability.
- (3) Promote financial stability of the public postsecondary institutions.
- (4) Ensure appropriate accountability through a rigorous annual review of the faculty.

New law provides that the higher education management board may not approve a new accreditor unless the accreditor meets the standards set in new law.

New law provides that, if a college or university seeks a new accreditor, the management board is to coordinate with the Bd. of Regents to do all that is necessary to gain or maintain accreditation and update the public on the college or university's website as to the progress of accreditation with a new accreditor.

New law requires that no accreditor may be chosen that conditions accreditation upon any violation of the La. Constitution or any state law.

New law changes accreditation references in prior law from "Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges" to "an accreditor recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education", pursuant to new law.

Effective May 29, 2026.

(Add R.S. 17:3125.1 and 3171-3176)