

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 95

BY SENATOR THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Education to study the feasibility of requiring public school governing authorities to encourage and assist high school seniors and their parents to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

WHEREAS, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the application for all forms of federal financial aid, including Pell grants, work study programs, and federal student loans, for attending a postsecondary education institution; and

WHEREAS, federal financial aid may be used to offset the costs of attending any of Louisiana's universities, community and technical colleges, or proprietary schools; and

WHEREAS, students must complete the FAFSA, or the online alternative to the FAFSA, in order to be considered for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) scholarship, including the TOPS Tech Award, which is available to students pursuing skill, occupational or technical training at eligible community and technical colleges, universities, or private training providers that offer a technical education certificate or degree program; and

WHEREAS, the FAFSA completion rate among Louisiana's public school seniors is significantly lower than the national average; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the state's low FAFSA completion rate, many Louisiana students are not availing themselves of tens of millions of dollars in federal aid, making the attainment of postsecondary education and training more financially onerous; and

WHEREAS, at the present time, assisting prospective high school graduates and their parents to complete the FAFSA is not a stated responsibility for public school governing authorities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Education to study the feasibility of requiring public school governing authorities to encourage and assist high school seniors and their parents to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state superintendent of education, the president of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the executive director of the Louisiana School Boards Association.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES