

2015 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 132

BY SENATOR APPEL

POSTSECONDARY ED. Requests the Board of Regents to re-examine the state's public postsecondary education delivery system and make recommendations regarding the role, scope, and mission of each public postsecondary institution.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Board of Regents, in consultation with the public postsecondary
3 education management boards, to re-examine the state's public postsecondary
4 education delivery system and make recommendations to the legislature regarding
5 the appropriate role, scope, and mission for each public postsecondary institution as
6 necessary to ensure a comprehensive, coordinated, statewide public postsecondary
7 delivery system that meets the needs of students and addresses the state's economic
8 development and workforce needs on a local, regional, and statewide level.

9 WHEREAS, the role public postsecondary education plays in the economic well
10 being of our citizens and our state is both well established and undeniable; and

11 WHEREAS, it is equally clear that the number of current and projected job openings
12 in the state and related educational requirements does not align with the number of citizens
13 matriculating from our public postsecondary institutions with degrees and credentials that
14 sufficiently prepare them to enter the workforce and fill the demand for skilled employees;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the changing needs of the state's workforce and the state's fiscal
17 condition make it imperative that our public postsecondary educational system make optimal
18 use of resources, increase institutional efficiency and productivity, and maximize student

1 access to an institution of public postsecondary education that best meets their educational
2 and career needs and serves the state's economic development and workforce goals; and

3 WHEREAS, the quality and worth of an institution is not determined by its size or
4 the breadth of its program and degree offerings, but by how well it serves the needs of its
5 students, community, region, and the state; and

6 WHEREAS, each public postsecondary institution is an integral part of the state's
7 public postsecondary delivery system, but it is time to look beyond traditional parochial
8 considerations and recognize that achieving the state's goals may require that the role, scope,
9 mission, and degree and program offerings of individual public postsecondary institutions
10 be redefined in a manner that differs from what is established in the current master plan, but
11 yet preserves institutional identity; and

12 WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(D)(2) of the Constitution of Louisiana provides,
13 relative to public institutions of postsecondary education, that it is a power, duty, and
14 responsibility of the Board of Regents to revise or eliminate an existing degree program,
15 department of instruction, division, or similar division and to approve a proposed degree
16 program, department of instruction, division, or similar subdivision; and

17 WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(D)(3)(a) of the constitution further provides that
18 it also is a power, duty, and responsibility of the board to study the need for and feasibility
19 of creating a new institution of public postsecondary education, including establishing a
20 branch of such an institution, or converting a nondegree granting institution to an institution
21 which grants degrees, or converting a college or university limited to offering degrees of a
22 lower rank than baccalaureate to a college or university that offers baccalaureate degrees,
23 or merging one or more institutions of public postsecondary education, establishing a new
24 management board, or transferring a college or university from one board to another; and

25 WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(D)(3)(b) of the constitution specifies that if the
26 creation of a new institution, the merger of institutions, the addition of a management board,
27 or the transfer of an existing institution from one board to another is proposed, the Board of
28 Regents shall report its written findings and recommendations to the legislature within one
29 year and further specifies that only after the report has been filed, or after one year from the
30 receipt of a request for a report from the legislature if no report is filed, may the legislature

1 take affirmative action on such a proposal, and then only by law enacted by two-thirds of the
2 elected members of each house; and

3 WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(D)(4) of the constitution tasks the Board of
4 Regents to formulate and make timely revision of a master plan for public postsecondary
5 education; and

6 WHEREAS, the current Master Plan for Public Postsecondary Education adopted by
7 the board in 2011, and revised in 2012, provides for the role, scope, and mission of each
8 public postsecondary education institution in the state; and

9 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Board of Regents to exercise its constitutional
10 responsibility and re-examine the state's public postsecondary education delivery system
11 from a statewide perspective and determine the best manner in which to provide a
12 coordinated statewide public postsecondary delivery system that provides for the proper role,
13 scope, and mission of each public postsecondary institution and its placement within the
14 public postsecondary education governance structure, focuses resources, and establishes an
15 optimal balance of technical colleges, two-year and four-year institutions, and courses of
16 study.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
18 does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents, in consultation with the public
19 postsecondary education management boards, to re-examine the state's public postsecondary
20 education delivery system and make recommendations to the legislature regarding the
21 appropriate role, scope, and mission for each public postsecondary institution as necessary
22 to ensure a comprehensive, coordinated, statewide public postsecondary delivery system that
23 meets the needs of students and addresses the state's economic development and workforce
24 needs on a local, regional, and statewide level.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents submit a written report of
26 its findings and conclusions, including recommendations for the role, scope, and mission for
27 each existing public postsecondary institution, to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of
28 the House of Representatives, the Senate Committee on Education, and the House
29 Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2016 Regular
30 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

