

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 144

BY REPRESENTATIVE ABRAHAM

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3138.7, relative to special treasury funds; to establish the Louisiana Jobs
3 Now Fund as a special fund in the state treasury; to provide for deposits into the
4 fund; to provide for uses of the fund; to provide for certain limitations; to require
5 certain reports; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:3138.7 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §3138.7. Louisiana Jobs Now Fund

9 A.(1) The Louisiana Jobs Now Fund, hereinafter referred to in this Section
10 as the "fund", is hereby created within the state treasury as a special fund for the
11 purpose of funding degree and certificate production in high-demand fields through
12 programs offered by Louisiana's public postsecondary education institutions, the
13 Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, the Louisiana
14 Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, and the Louisiana State University
15 Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, to meet the state's current and future
16 workforce needs.

17 (2) Any money donated to the fund or appropriated to the fund by the
18 legislature shall be deposited in the fund. Monies in the fund shall be invested in the
19 same manner as monies in the general fund. Interest earned on investment of monies
20 in the fund shall be credited to the fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in
21 the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

22 B.(1) Monies in the fund shall be appropriated to the Board of Regents to be
23 distributed to and used by postsecondary education institutions in accordance with
24 the distribution method to be developed as provided for in this Section.

1 (2) The funds distributed pursuant to this Section shall be used by the
2 institution towards degree production at four-year institutions, the Louisiana State
3 University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, the Louisiana Health Sciences
4 Center School of Nursing, and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences
5 Center in Shreveport, in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)
6 programs and towards degree and certificate production at two-year, community, and
7 technical colleges in fields required for four-star or five-star jobs as defined by the
8 Louisiana Workforce Commission's Louisiana Star Jobs program or its successors.

9 (3) Any funds distributed to an institution that remain unexpended or
10 unobligated at the end of the fiscal year shall be available for use in the subsequent
11 fiscal year by an institution pursuant to its implementation plan.

12 (4) Funding shall be distributed by the Board of Regents to the
13 postsecondary education management boards, the Louisiana State University Health
14 Sciences Center in New Orleans, the Louisiana Health Sciences Center School of
15 Nursing, and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport,
16 only upon the certification by the postsecondary education management board and
17 the association on behalf of the receiving institution that a match of no less than
18 twenty-five percent of the amount of funding to be distributed has been guaranteed
19 by a private entity. The certification shall detail the type of private match to be
20 provided, which may include but is not limited to: cash; in-kind donations of
21 technology, personnel, construction materials, facility modification, or corporeal
22 property; internships; scholarships; sponsorship of staff or faculty; or faculty
23 endowment.

24 C. The method for distribution of funds shall be as follows:

25 (1) Fifty percent of funds shall be distributed to the Louisiana State
26 University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, the Louisiana Health Sciences
27 Center School of Nursing, and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences
28 Center in Shreveport, and four-year institutions based on each institution's prior year
29 degree production in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs.

1 (2) Fifty percent of funds shall be distributed to two-year, community, and
2 technical colleges based on each institution's prior year degree and certificate
3 production in fields required for four-star or five-star jobs as defined by the
4 Louisiana Workforce Commission's Louisiana Star Jobs program or its successors.

5 (3) The commissioner of higher education and the presidents of the four
6 public postsecondary education systems and the chancellors of the Louisiana State
7 University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, the Louisiana Health Sciences
8 Center School of Nursing, and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences
9 Center in Shreveport, annually shall review and approve the distribution method, the
10 list of degree and certificate programs upon which the distribution is based, and the
11 final distribution amounts.

12 D. The Board of Regents annually shall submit a report to the Senate
13 Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee
14 on Education, and the House Committee on Appropriations. The report shall include
15 the distribution method, the list of degree and certificate programs upon which the
16 distribution is based, the final distribution amounts, the number of jobs created as a
17 result of the distribution, and the method and data used to determine the reported
18 number of jobs created. Each postsecondary education management board, the
19 Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, the Louisiana
20 Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, and the Louisiana State University
21 Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, shall report to the Board of Regents the
22 information necessary for the Board of Regents to satisfy the requirements of this
23 Subsection.

24 E. The fund is in addition to, and separate from, any monies appropriated or
25 allocated to any postsecondary education management board. Allocations from this
26 fund shall not be included in the Board of Regents' funding formula calculation, nor
27 shall it supplant any state general fund allocations provided to institutions. The
28 availability of the fund shall not in any way substitute, limit, or otherwise affect the
29 allocation of any funds otherwise available to those institutions under state or federal
30 laws.

1 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2018; if vetoed by the governor
2 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,
3 2018, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____