

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 676

BY REPRESENTATIVE EMERSON

HIGHER EDUCATION: Prohibits a public postsecondary education institution from withholding certain student services for financial reasons

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3391, relative to student records; to prohibit withholding student transcripts
3 and other records due to outstanding debt or defaulting on loans; to provide for
4 definitions; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:3391 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §3391. Student records; outstanding student debt, student loan default

8 A. For purposes of this Section:

9 (1) "School" means a Louisiana public postsecondary education institution.

10 (2) "Debt" means any money, obligation, claim, or sum, due or owing, or
11 alleged to be due or owing, from a student.

12 (3) "Default" means the failure of a borrower to repay a loan according to
13 the terms agreed to in the promissory note.

14 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no school shall do any of the
15 following:

16 (1) Refuse to provide a transcript for a current or former student on the
17 grounds that the student owes a debt.

18 (2) Condition the provision of a transcript for a current or former student on
19 the payment of a debt other than a fee charged to provide the transcript.

- 1 (3) Charge a higher fee for obtaining a transcript or provide any other less
2 favorable treatment because a student or former student owes a debt.
- 3 (4) Use transcript issuance as a debt collection tool.
- 4 (5) Withhold services from a current or former student who is in default on
5 a federal loan. Services that may not be withheld include but are not limited to:
- 6 (a) Providing grades.
7 (b) Providing a diploma.
8 (c) Course registration services.
9 (d) Issuing transcripts.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 676 Engrossed

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Emerson

Abstract: Prohibits a public postsecondary education institution from withholding certain services when a student has an outstanding debt with the institution or a federal loan in default.

Proposed law provides relative to students with outstanding debt. Prohibits a La. public postsecondary education institutions from doing the following because of debt:

- (1) Refuse to provide a transcript.
- (2) Condition providing a transcript on debt payment other than the standard fee charged for a transcript.
- (3) Charge a higher fee for a transcript, or otherwise treat a student less favorably than a student without a debt.
- (4) Withhold a transcript as a tool for debt collection.

Proposed law provides relative to students who are in default on a federal loan. Prohibits postsecondary education institutions from withholding release of records, including transcripts, grades, and diplomas due to a student's defaulting on a loan.

(Adds R.S. 17:3391)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Limit the applicability of proposed law to La. public colleges and universities.