

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 77

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates April 28, 2025, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Day at the state capitol

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To designate Monday, April 28, 2025, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities
3 (HBCU) Day at the state capitol.

4 WHEREAS, Louisiana is proud to be home to eight Historically Black Colleges and
5 Universities: Dillard University, Grambling State University, Southern University and A&M
6 College, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Southern
7 University Law Center, Southern University at New Orleans, Southern University
8 Shreveport, and Xavier University of Louisiana; and

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana is also home to the nation's only HBCU System, the Southern
10 University System, comprising five campuses that serve as pillars of higher learning and
11 community engagement: Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Southern
12 University at New Orleans, Southern University Shreveport, the Southern University
13 Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Baton Rouge, and the Southern University
14 Law Center in Baton Rouge; and

15 WHEREAS, the first HBCU was established one hundred eighty-nine years ago, and
16 HBCUs continue to build a legacy of excellence, achievement, and inclusion in the United
17 States; and

18 WHEREAS, HBCUs work diligently to promote their institutions' rich histories and
19 continue to create new pathways towards educational excellence, and they play a crucial role
20 in contributing to the economy and workforce, aligning their academic programs with the
21 needs of industry while ensuring HBCU graduates meet the demands of the job market; and

1 WHEREAS, HBCU graduates are exemplary public servants, scientists, doctors,
2 artists, lawyers, judges, engineers, educators, entertainers, business owners, and leaders and
3 have distinguished themselves in numerous ways, both nationally and in the state; and

4 WHEREAS, Dillard University fuels the state and regional economy by producing
5 leaders in healthcare, STEM, education, business, and the arts, many of whom remain in
6 Louisiana to work and serve in their communities; the school is recognized for its 98%
7 medical school acceptance rate among pre-med graduates, which is one of the highest in the
8 country; and it is home to the Ray Charles Program in African American Material Culture
9 and the Institute of Jazz and Cultural Arts, amplifying its role as a steward of Black cultural
10 preservation; and

11 WHEREAS, Grambling State University has nearly one hundred twenty-five years
12 of excellence in action and continues to lead through innovation and impact; the school
13 established Louisiana's first Ph.D. program in Criminology and Justice Administration,
14 became the first and only HBCU with a campus-based Digital Library, earned recognition
15 as a CASE Standards Contributor, ranked among the Top 20 HBCUs in the nation and as the
16 Best in Louisiana for economic and social mobility, and achieved record-breaking growth
17 in alumni giving, corporate partnerships, investor retention, endowed scholarships, and
18 student scholarship awards; and

19 WHEREAS, Southern University and A&M College is celebrating one hundred
20 forty-five years of service and is the flagship of the System as the leading producer of Black
21 graduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); the school boasts
22 the top-ranked nursing program in the nation, according to Nurse.org; and

23 WHEREAS, Southern University at New Orleans plays a critical role in expanding
24 access to higher education in the Greater New Orleans area, most notably through the
25 graduation of its first cohort of nursing students, the planned groundbreaking of a new
26 state-of-the-art nursing building, and its new data science degree program; the school also
27 reestablished its evening and weekend college to better provide for the adult learners it
28 proudly serves; and

29 WHEREAS, Southern University Shreveport has established the Aerospace
30 Technology Center as the region's premier training hub for aviation technicians, addressing

1 a critical industry need through a program uniquely positioned to prepare students for
2 high-wage careers; the school operates a Mobile Health Unit that delivers critical
3 preventative care, screenings, and dental services to underserved communities across
4 northwest Louisiana while providing allied health and nursing students with hands-on
5 clinical training; and

6 WHEREAS, Southern University Law Center (SULC) has developed an Heirs'
7 Property Certificate Program to equip participants with the basic knowledge needed to
8 maintain ownership of land that has been passed down through generations and since 2017
9 has had thirteen of its brightest, most service-oriented SULC students consistently honored
10 by the White House as HBCU Scholars; and

11 WHEREAS, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center
12 (SUAREC) has partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture to establish the
13 first USDA Agricultural Science Center of Excellence for Nutrition and Diet (ASCEND)
14 Nutrition Hub; under the leadership of Chancellor-Dean Dr. Orlando F. McMeans, Precision
15 "Agcademy" Drone Certification Program has engaged nearly two hundred Louisiana
16 students in drone operations; SUAREC produces Southern University Natural (SUN) Beef,
17 and SUAREC celebrated its 82nd Annual State Livestock and Poultry Show this year; and

18 WHEREAS, Xavier University of Louisiana celebrates a century of excellence and
19 is a national leader in producing African American Doctor of Pharmacy graduates and Black
20 students who complete medical school, leading to 10.1% of first-year medical students in
21 Louisiana identifying as Black or African American; the school is developing the Xavier
22 Ochsner College of Medicine in partnership with Ochsner Health, which is set to become
23 the fifth historically Black medical school in U.S. history and the only one in the Gulf South;
24 throughout its history, Xavier has accomplished academic achievements and community
25 impact that remain a source of pride, and the school contributes significantly to the cultural
26 and economic vitality of New Orleans by generating jobs, attracting investment, and fueling
27 innovation in the region; and

28 WHEREAS, it is most fitting to commend Louisiana's Historically Black Colleges
29 and Universities for their outstanding achievements and their numerous alumni for their
30 contributions to their local communities, the state, and the world.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Monday, April 28, 2025, as Historically
3 Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Day at the state capitol and does hereby recognize
4 the contributions of HBCUs throughout the state and the country.

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)]

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