

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 484

BY SENATOR ABRAHAM

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES. Transfers certain duties from the Board of Regents to the management boards of public colleges and universities and Louisiana Works. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:2048.51(A), (E), (F), (G)(1)(a)(i), (J), the introductory
3 paragraph of 2048.51(O)(1), 2048.51(O)(2), and (3)(c), the introductory paragraph
4 of 3128.1(A), 3128.1(B) and (C), 3134, 3138(A), (B), and (E), 3138.5(B)(1), (D)(1),
5 (2), the introductory paragraph of (D)(4), 3138.5(D)(4)(f), and (5), and (E),
6 3138.9(A)(3) and (5), (B)(1) and (C), and 3452, R.S. 39:128(B)(1) and (4)(a)(i), and
7 R.S. 42:375.2(A), the introductory paragraph of (B) and (B)(1), (C), and (D)(3) and
8 to enact R.S. 17:3128.1(D), 3138(G), and 3454(E), R.S. 36:309(E)(3) and (4), and
9 R.S. 42:375.2(D)(4) and to repeal R.S. 36:651(F)(6) and (L)(1)(a), relative to higher
10 education and the duties of the Board of Regents; to transfer of certain powers,
11 duties, and functions from the Board of Regents to other agencies; to provide with
12 respect to the Louisiana Health Works Commission; to provide with respect to
13 incubator facilities on postsecondary campuses; to provide with respect to the
14 Louisiana Education Tuition and Savings Plan and Fund; to provide for the
15 development of a uniform fiscal policy and accountability framework for public
16 postsecondary education institutions; to provide requirements for fiscal reports and
17 early warning metrics; to provide for corrective action measures; to provide relative

1 to reporting; to provide with respect to the state common admission application for
 2 postsecondary institutions; to provide with respect to Hunger-Free campus
 3 designations; to provide with respect to Purple Star Campus designations; provides
 4 with respect to the Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund and the Cybersecurity
 5 Education Management Council; provides with respect to the Louisiana Universities
 6 Marine Consortium; to provide with respect to agency attrition analysis; to provide
 7 with respect to the minor repairs, renovation, or construction of facilities undertaken
 8 on higher education campuses; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:2048.51(A), (E), (F), (G)(1)(a)(i), (J), the introductory paragraph
 11 of 2048.51(O)(1), (2), and (3)(c), the introductory paragraph of 3128.1(A), 3128.1(B) and
 12 (C), 3134, 3138(A), (B), and (E), 3138.5(B)(1), (D)(1), (2), the introductory paragraph of
 13 (D)(4), 3138.5(D)(4)(f), and (5), (E), 3138.9(A)(3) and (5), (B)(1) and (C), and 3452 are
 14 hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:3128.1(D), 3138(G), and 3454(E) are hereby
 15 enacted to read as follows:

16 §2048.51. Louisiana Health Works Commission; creation; membership;
 17 compensation; staff and facilities; powers and duties; data collection
 18 and reporting

19 A. There is hereby created in ~~the Department of Education~~ **Louisiana**
 20 **Works**, **and** under the jurisdiction of ~~the Board of Regents~~ **thereof**, the Louisiana
 21 Health Works Commission, hereafter referred to as the "commission".

22 * * *

23 E. ~~The Board of Regents~~ **Louisiana Works** shall provide the staff and
 24 facilities needed by the commission to accomplish its tasks.

25 F. Each group, organization, and agency shall submit the names of members
 26 to ~~the Board of Regents~~ **Louisiana Works**.

27 G. The Louisiana Health Works Commission shall have the following
 28 committees:

29 (1)(a) An executive committee composed of the following:

1 (i) The ~~commissioner of higher education~~ **secretary of Louisiana Works** or
2 his designee for the commission.

3 * * *

4 J. The commission shall address the workforce issues in the health care
5 industry in Louisiana, support the education of future health care workers, and work
6 to improve the image of health care professions in Louisiana. The commission shall
7 periodically report to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare ~~and, the Senate~~
8 **Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations**, the House Committee on Health
9 and Welfare, **and the Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations** all
10 accomplishments and recommendations of the commission including an annual
11 report to both committees. The commission shall submit its annual report to such
12 committees by February first of each year.

13 * * *

14 O.(1) ~~The Board of Regents~~ **Louisiana Works**, the Health Works
15 Commission, the division of administration, or any contractor working on behalf of
16 these entities shall be authorized to request and receive licensing data, education
17 data, and employment data, including unemployment wage records and other related
18 health workforce data produced by state agencies, including Louisiana Works,
19 Louisiana Economic Development, the state Department of Education, and the
20 Louisiana Department of Health, obtained pursuant to the administration of this
21 Chapter for any of the expressly stated following purposes:

22 * * *

23 (2) All data shall be submitted in a standardized format agreed upon by ~~the~~
24 ~~Board of Regents~~ **Louisiana Works**, the Health Works Commission, and
25 representatives of the affected state boards and agencies.

26 (3) Any individual data provided pursuant to this Subsection shall be
27 confidential. No public employee, commission member, or contractor acting on
28 behalf of a state agency or employee of such a contractor may:

29 * * *

1 (c) Retain any personal data as provided in this Subsection that is received
 2 by ~~the Board of Regents~~ **Louisiana Works** and the commission or any contractor
 3 acting on behalf of the commission. Any personal data must be destroyed within
 4 thirty days of completion of its intended purpose as described in this Subsection.

5 * * *

6 §3128.1. Power to survey, evaluate, and implement incubator facilities on state
 7 college and university campuses

8 A. ~~The Board of Regents~~ **Each management board of each public**
 9 **postsecondary education system** shall conduct a survey of state colleges and
 10 universities for the purpose of establishing ~~incubator facilities~~ **small business**
 11 **incubators**, as defined in ~~R.S. 51:1122(4)~~ **R.S. 51:2322**, on qualified campuses. In
 12 order to complete such study, ~~the~~ **each management** board shall establish criteria
 13 for evaluation of institutions which shall include, but not be limited to the following
 14 information:

15 * * *

16 B. ~~The~~ **Each management** board shall use the criteria established pursuant
 17 to Subsection A in order to evaluate the potential for incubator facilities on campuses
 18 and recommend such facilities on qualified campuses.

19 C. ~~The~~ **Each management** board shall report criteria established, data
 20 developed, and other relevant information and shall make recommendations for
 21 implementation of incubator facilities to the governor, the speaker of the House of
 22 Representatives, the president of the Senate, the chairmen of the House Committee
 23 on Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, the chairman of the Small
 24 Business Development Corporation, and the secretary of Louisiana Economic
 25 Development pursuant to its study no later than January 1, 1987.

26 **D. For purposes of this Section, "management board" means a**
 27 **governing board of a public postsecondary education institution that is**
 28 **responsible for supervising the day-to-day operations of each institution. Article**
 29 **VIII of the Constitution of Louisiana provides that the management boards are**

1 the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and
 2 Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana
 3 System, the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and
 4 Mechanical College, and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical
 5 Colleges.

6 §3134. ~~Accountability~~ **Financial accountability** in higher education; legislative
 7 intent; ~~definitions; reporting forms~~ **uniform fiscal policy;**
 8 **administrative reporting; early warning metrics; corrective**
 9 **actions**

10 A.(1) It is the intent of the legislature ~~that an~~ **to establish and implement**
 11 **comprehensive financial** accountability process be established and implemented to
 12 provide for the ~~systematic, ongoing evaluation of quality and effectiveness in the~~
 13 **framework for** public institutions of higher education in Louisiana ~~that may be used~~
 14 to initiate curriculum, programmatic, funding, policy, or planning changes in higher
 15 education **that provides for the systematic and ongoing evaluation of fiscal**
 16 **health, operational efficiency, and institutional effectiveness.**

17 (2) It is further the intent of the legislature that ~~the~~ **such** accountability
 18 process ~~monitor performance at the institutional level in each of the major areas of~~
 19 research, student learning and development, faculty development and quality, and
 20 to assure that progress toward providing excellent educational programming and
 21 opportunities consistent with the institutional role, scope, and mission of each of the
 22 public institutions of higher education is being made and funded **framework include**
 23 **the continuous monitoring and evaluation of institutional fiscal performance,**
 24 **including the budgeting, allocation, expenditure, and stewardship of public**
 25 **funds at the institutional level. The framework shall ensure that public funds**
 26 **are expended in a manner that demonstrates efficiency, effectiveness, and**
 27 **measurable return on investment, and that funding decisions are directly tied**
 28 **to the achievement of defined performance outcomes consistent with the role,**
 29 **scope, and mission of each public institution of higher education.**

1 B.~~(1)~~ The accountability process shall be developed by the Board of Regents
2 in a collaborative effort involving each higher education management board shall
3 establish a uniform fiscal policy including an institutional cash balance policy,
4 to be adopted by each public postsecondary education management board no
5 later than December 31, 2026.

6 (2) The policy shall require each public postsecondary education
7 institution to submit an institutional quarterly financial report to its respective
8 public postsecondary education management board.

9 (3) Each institutional quarterly financial report shall include, at a
10 minimum:

11 (a) Quarterly revenues and expenditures, including comparisons to
12 budgeted amounts.

13 (b) Fund balances, including unrestricted, restricted, athletics, and
14 auxiliary funds.

15 (c) Cash flow and liquidity metrics.

16 (d) Outstanding debt obligations and material changes thereto.

17 (e) Actual and quarterly projected tuition and fee revenue.

18 (f) Account receivable balances.

19 (g) Identification of actual or projected deficits or financial risks.

20 (h) Campus action plans as needed.

21 (i) Any additional information as required by the Board of Regents.

22 (4) Institutional quarterly financial reports shall be submitted to the
23 management board no later than fifteen days after the close of each fiscal
24 quarter. Management boards shall submit compiled reports to the Board of
25 Regents no later than thirty days after the close of each fiscal quarter.

26 (5) Each management board shall review and compile its institutional
27 quarterly financial reports and submit a system level quarterly financial report,
28 inclusive of all institutions under its jurisdiction, to the Board of Regents.

29 Systems shall identify institutions in financial distress and shall provide a

1 corrective action plan and a timeline to address the fiscal challenges of the
2 distressed institution.

3 (6) Each management board shall adopt policies to ensure timely and
4 accurate submission of reports required pursuant to this Section.

5 (7) Failure to timely submit required reports shall result in a designation
6 of noncompliance. The Board of Regents shall provide written notice of
7 noncompliance to the commissioner of administration, the president of the
8 Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the House Committee on
9 Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance.

10 C.(1) The Board of Regents shall develop and implement a fiscal early
11 warning system to monitor the financial condition of each public postsecondary
12 education institution. ~~be the authorized agency for administration, implementation,~~
13 ~~monitoring, and evaluation of the accountability process and is authorized to, but is~~
14 ~~not limited to, the following:~~

15 ~~(a) Adopt the appropriate measures, necessary standard definitions, and~~
16 ~~program guidelines to implement an accountability process for public institutions of~~
17 ~~higher education.~~

18 ~~(b) Identify institutional and systemwide performance standards and~~
19 ~~performance goals.~~

20 ~~(c) Develop appropriate reporting procedures and formats for use by the~~
21 ~~institutions in reporting data.~~

22 ~~(d) Develop a process for allocating funding in an objective and measurable~~
23 ~~manner designed to assure adequate resources are available to achieve excellent~~
24 ~~educational programming and opportunity consistent with each institution's role,~~
25 ~~scope, and mission and to provide incentive and reward for excellence in institutional~~
26 ~~performance.~~

27 ~~(e) Submit an annual report to the governor and to the Committees on~~
28 ~~Education of the Senate and the House of Representatives beginning in 1997.~~

29 (2) ~~The Board of Regents shall adopt such rules and regulations as may be~~

1 necessary in implementing this Section, which shall include but shall not be limited
2 to the final recommendations of the Accountability in Public Higher Education
3 Advisory Committee The warning system shall utilize the quarterly financial
4 reports submitted pursuant to this Section, together with any additional data,
5 including system internal audit reports required by the Board of Regents, to
6 identify conditions of financial distress, structural deficit, and risk of financial
7 insolvency at the earliest practicable stage.

8 (3) The Board of Regents shall establish uniform financial metrics and
9 risk indicators, including but not limited to:

10 (a) Structural deficits exceeding three percent of an institution's
11 operating budget.

12 (b) Declines in cash on hand below two months of operating expenses.

13 (c) Negative cash flow.

14 (d) Increasing debt burden or unsustainable debt service ratios.

15 (e) Enrollment declines materially affecting revenue.

16 (f) Increasing accounts receivable balance.

17 D.~~(1)~~ The Board of Regents may require that every public higher education
18 institution submit to it, at a time it specifies, an annual accountability report of
19 institutional effectiveness to include the data as it may determine shall require each
20 management board to develop and implement a detailed corrective action plan
21 in response to an institution identified as being in fiscal distress. The corrective
22 action plan should be submitted to the Board of Regents within ninety days of
23 the institution being deemed in distress to ensure timely and effective fiduciary
24 and budgetary measures.

25 (2) If a management board fails to take corrective action as required
26 pursuant to this Subsection, the Board of Regents shall refer the matter to the
27 office of inspector general for review.

28 E.~~(1)~~ The provisions of this Section shall be mandatory only to the extent that
29 the necessary funds are appropriated to the Board of Regents for this purpose The

1 Louisiana Board of Regents shall annually submit a written report to the House
 2 Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the
 3 Division of Administration not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the
 4 legislative session.

5 (2) The report shall include information provided for in Paragraphs
 6 (B)(3) and (D)(1) of this Section.

7 * * *

8 §3138. Louisiana common application; development; implementation

9 A.(1)(a) ~~The Board of Regents~~ Each management board of each public
 10 postsecondary education system, in collaboration with the each public
 11 postsecondary ~~education management boards~~ institution, the chairman of the Senate
 12 Committee on Education or his designee, and the chairman of the House Committee
 13 on Education or his designee, shall provide for the development and implementation
 14 of a common application whereby Louisiana residents and nonresidents may apply
 15 to any public college and university in the ~~state~~ system. Except as provided in R.S.
 16 17:3152, such application shall not include questions pertaining to an applicant's
 17 criminal history.

18 (b) When developing the implementation plan for the common application,
 19 consideration shall be given to best practices for successful implementation,
 20 implementation costs, development and maintenance of a website to facilitate the
 21 common application process, and the duties and responsibilities of ~~the Board of~~
 22 ~~Regents~~ and the postsecondary education systems and institutions.

23 (2) Regionally accredited independent colleges and universities that are
 24 members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities may
 25 also utilize ~~the a~~ Louisiana common application developed by any management
 26 board of a public postsecondary education system.

27 B. Each public college and university shall accept the Louisiana common
 28 application developed by its management board, which a student may complete
 29 one time and submit to as many institutions as he wishes to apply. Applications may

1 be submitted electronically or in a paper format, as specified by the individual
2 postsecondary institution.

3 * * *

4 E. The Louisiana common application shall be developed by each
5 management board and be fully implemented and available to students applying
6 for admission for the ~~2016-2017~~ 2026-2027 academic year.

7 * * *

8 G. For purposes of this Section, "management board" shall have the
9 same meaning as R.S. 17:3128.1.

10 * * *

11 §3138.5. Purple Star Campus; designation; process; eligibility; applications

12 * * *

13 B.(1) The ~~Board of Regents~~ Department of Veterans Affairs shall establish
14 a process for a postsecondary education institution to be designated as a "Purple Star
15 Campus".

16 * * *

17 D.(1) The ~~Board of Regents~~ Department of Veterans Affairs shall develop
18 an application process, including time lines for submitting applications, for
19 institutions that are interested in receiving the designation specified in Paragraph
20 (B)(1) of this Section.

21 (2) The ~~Board of Regents~~ Department of Veterans Affairs shall review each
22 application and shall submit such applications to the governor along with a written
23 report that indicates if an institution meets the requirements specified in Subsections
24 B and C of this Section to receive the initial designation by the governor.

25 * * *

26 (4) After receiving the initial designation by the governor and in accordance
27 with timelines established by the ~~board~~ department, an institution shall submit a
28 renewal application to the ~~Board of Regents~~ Department of Veterans Affairs prior
29 to the expiration of a designation and an interim report in each year it is not

1 submitting a renewal application. Each renewal application and interim report shall
2 include, at a minimum, all of the following information from the previous year as it
3 relates to veterans:

4 * * *

5 (f) Other military friendly information identified by the ~~Board of Regents~~
6 **Department of Veterans Affairs**.

7 (5) If the ~~Board of Regents~~ **Department of Veterans Affairs** determines that
8 the institution meets the requirements specified in Subsections B and C of this
9 Section based on its renewal application, the institution shall receive the designation
10 for that year. If the ~~Board of Regents~~ **Department of Veterans Affairs** determines
11 that an institution does not meet the specified requirements, the ~~board~~ **department**
12 shall provide written notice to the institution and the institution shall have forty-five
13 days from receipt of the notice to correct or amend its renewal application. If the
14 institution does not submit a corrected or amended application or if the corrected or
15 amended application does not meet the requirements as determined by the ~~board~~
16 **department**, the institution shall not receive the designation for that year.

17 E. The ~~Board of Regents~~ **Department of Veterans Affairs** may establish
18 additional tiers of distinction for the purpose of recognizing higher levels of
19 excellence demonstrated by institutions that have received the designation provided
20 for in this Section. If the ~~board~~ **department** establishes additional tiers, it shall
21 provide for the criteria for each tier and the associated application process.

22 * * *

23 §3138.9. Louisiana Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund; Cybersecurity Education
24 Management Council

25 A. * * *

26 (3) Monies in the fund shall be appropriated to the ~~Board of Regents~~
27 **Louisiana Works** to be distributed to public postsecondary education institutions.

28 * * *

29 (5) Funding shall be distributed by the ~~Board of Regents~~ **Louisiana Works**

1 to the public postsecondary education management boards only upon the certification
 2 by such a board, on behalf of the receiving institution, that a match of no less than
 3 twenty-five percent of the amount of funding to be distributed has been guaranteed
 4 by a private entity. The certification shall detail the type of private match to be
 5 provided, which may include but is not limited to cash; in-kind donations of
 6 technology, personnel, construction materials, facility modification, or corporeal
 7 property; internships; scholarships; sponsorship of staff or faculty; or faculty
 8 endowment.

* * *

10 B.(1) The Cybersecurity Education Management Council, referred to in this
 11 Section as the "council", is hereby created under the auspices of ~~the Board of~~
 12 ~~Regents~~ **Louisiana Works** for the purpose of advising and making recommendations
 13 to the board with respect to distributions from the fund.

* * *

15 C. ~~The Board of Regents annually~~ **Louisiana Works** shall submit a report
 16 to the Senate Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Finance, the House
 17 Committee on Education, and the House Committee on Appropriations, **on an**
 18 **annual basis**. The report shall include the distribution method, the list of degree and
 19 certificate programs upon which the distribution is based, the final distribution
 20 amounts, the number of jobs created as a result of the distribution, and the method
 21 and data used to determine the reported number of jobs created. Each public
 22 postsecondary education management board shall report to ~~the Board of Regents~~
 23 **Louisiana Works** the information necessary for ~~the Board of Regents~~ **Louisiana**
 24 **Works** to satisfy the requirements of this Subsection.

* * *

26 §3452. Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium for Research and Education;
 27 creation; membership

28 **A.** The Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium for Research and
 29 Education, referred to hereinafter as the consortium, is hereby created as a body

1 corporate under the authority of the ~~Board of Regents~~ **Board of Supervisors of**
2 **Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College**, hereafter
3 to be referred to as the board in this Chapter.

4 **B. The board shall partner with other public postsecondary institutions**
5 **and other private colleges and universities for research and education purposes,**
6 **subject to cooperative endeavor agreements.**

7 * * *

8 §3454. Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium for Research and Education;
9 governance, funding

10 * * *

11 **E.(1) There is hereby created the Louisiana Marine Consortium**
12 **Efficiency and Research Competitiveness Commission, hereinafter referred to**
13 **as the "commission", to study and make recommendations regarding the**
14 **operations, governance, administration, funding structure, and research**
15 **competitiveness of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium for Research**
16 **and Education.**

17 **(2) The purpose of the commission shall be to evaluate methods and**
18 **opportunities to do all of the following:**

19 **(a) Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the consortium.**

20 **(b) Increase collaboration among public and private postsecondary**
21 **education institutions participating in the consortium.**

22 **(c) Maximize the consortium's ability to obtain federal, private, and**
23 **other external research grants and funding.**

24 **(d) Increase equitable participation in consortium research opportunities**
25 **by member institutions.**

26 **(e) Identify opportunities to reduce administrative duplication and**
27 **improve operational coordination among participating institutions.**

28 **(f) Strengthen Louisiana's competitiveness for marine, coastal,**
29 **environmental, fisheries, and related scientific research funding.**

1 **(3) The commission shall be composed of the following voting members:**

2 **(a) The president of the Louisiana State University System, or his**
3 **designee.**

4 **(b) The president of the Southern University System, or his designee.**

5 **(c) The president of the University of Louisiana System, or his designee.**

6 **(d) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College**
7 **System, or his designee.**

8 **(e) One member appointed to represent the Louisiana Association of**
9 **Independent Colleges and Universities, who shall be the president of Tulane**
10 **University, or his designee.**

11 **(4) The executive director of the consortium shall serve as a nonvoting**
12 **ex officio member of the commission and shall serve as secretary to the**
13 **commission.**

14 **(5) The members of the commission shall elect a chairman from among**
15 **its voting members.**

16 **(6) The commission shall meet as necessary and may request**
17 **information, data, reports, and assistance from the consortium and**
18 **participating institutions in carrying out its duties.**

19 **(7) The executive director, as secretary to the commission, shall prepare**
20 **and submit the written report of the commission as required by in Paragraph**
21 **(8) of this Subsection.**

22 **(8) No later than January 2, 2027, the commission shall submit its**
23 **written report, in accordance with R.S. 24:771 and 772, to the Senate**
24 **Committee on Education, the House Committee on Education, the Senate**
25 **Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Board**
26 **of Regents regarding its findings and recommendations concerning governance**
27 **reforms, administrative efficiencies, collaborative research opportunities, and**
28 **strategies to increase federal, private, and external research funding.**

29 **(9) The commission shall terminate on January 2, 2027.**

1 Section 2. R.S. 36:309(E)(3) and (4) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

2 §309. Transfer of agencies to Louisiana Works

3 * * *

4 E. The following agencies are transferred to and hereafter shall be within
5 Louisiana Works and shall perform and exercise their powers, duties, functions, and
6 responsibilities as provided by law:

7 * * *

8 **(3) The Louisiana Health Works Commission (R.S. 17:2048.51).**

9 **(4) The Cybersecurity Education Management Council (R.S. 17:3138.9).**

10 * * *

11 Section 3. R.S. 39:128(B)(1) and (4)(a)(i) are hereby amended and reenacted to read
12 as follows:

13 §128. Exemptions

14 * * *

15 B.(1) Minor repairs, renovation, or construction of buildings or other
16 facilities or the purchase of land, buildings, or other facilities when the construction
17 cost or purchase price is less than or equal to ~~one~~ **two** million dollars, adjusted
18 annually in accordance with the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics consumer
19 price index for all urban consumers as published in January of each year, may be
20 undertaken by or on the campus of a state college, university, higher education
21 facility, or consortium without being included in the capital outlay budget but shall
22 be subject to the approval of ~~the Board of Regents and~~ the appropriate
23 **postsecondary** management board, or any successor. A state college, university,
24 higher education facility, or consortium may not incur debt to fund any project that
25 is not included in the capital outlay budget other than a short-term loan not to exceed
26 one year for the purposes included in this Paragraph. Any short-term loan shall be
27 issued in accordance with the provisions of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised
28 Statutes of 1950, and shall not constitute or create any debt, liability, or loan of the
29 credit of or a pledge of the full faith and credit of the state but shall be solely the

1 obligation of the ~~appropriate governing board~~ or postsecondary education
 2 management board, or any successor. **Each postsecondary management board**
 3 **shall report projects initiated under the provisions of this Section when the**
 4 **construction cost or purchase price is between two hundred and fifty thousand**
 5 **and two million dollars to the Board of Regents on a monthly basis.**

6 * * *

7 (4)(a)(i) A university, higher education facility, or consortium shall be
 8 allowed to undertake any new construction, maintenance, or repair project not
 9 exceeding ten million dollars solely funded from self-generated revenues, grants,
 10 donations, or local or federal funds without being included in the Capital Outlay Bill,
 11 provided that the project is approved by the appropriate governing board or
 12 **postsecondary** management board; ~~the Board of Regents~~; the division of
 13 administration, office of facility planning and control; and the Joint Legislative
 14 Committee on the Budget. The office of facility planning and control shall issue the
 15 necessary contracts for the project and shall disburse funds to pay the costs of the
 16 project. The university, higher education facility, or consortium shall remit project
 17 funding to the office of facility planning and control for deposit in the state treasury
 18 at such time as may be deemed necessary by the office of facility planning and
 19 control in order to cover the amount of contracts or other project expenses. Any
 20 surplus of the project funding and any interest earned on the funds shall be refunded
 21 to the university, higher education facility, or consortium by the state treasurer. **Each**
 22 **postsecondary management board shall report projects initiated under the**
 23 **provisions of this Section to the Board of Regents on a monthly basis.**

24 Section 4. R.S. 42:375.2(A), the introductory paragraph of (B) and (B)(1), (C), and
 25 (D)(3) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 42:375.2(D)(4) is hereby enacted to read
 26 as follows:

27 §375.2. Agency attrition analysis process, higher education systems

28 A. ~~The Board of Regents~~ **Each management board of each public**
 29 **postsecondary education system** shall establish and implement an agency attrition

1 analysis process to be used by each **institution under each** higher education system
 2 to review the historical employee vacancies, relative to authorized table of
 3 organization full and part-time positions funded in whole or in part by the state
 4 general fund, within each agency with a goal to reduce by five percent annually for
 5 three years by an equally proportionate reduction of such positions across all salary
 6 ranges of equal increments, beginning Fiscal Year ~~2010-2011~~ **2026-2027**, the
 7 number of such positions in each higher education system.

8 B. In implementing the requirements of Subsection A of this Section, ~~the~~
 9 ~~Board of Regents~~ **each management board** shall establish a process which requires
 10 the analysis of the following:

11 (1) General staffing needs of each ~~higher education system~~ **public**
 12 **postsecondary education institution.**

13 * * *

14 C. On the first day of the month following the month in which the executive
 15 budget is submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, ~~the Board of~~
 16 ~~Regents~~ **each management board** shall provide a written report to the ~~Commission~~
 17 ~~on Streamlining Government~~ **Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget**
 18 indicating the state general fund dollar savings achieved as a result of the
 19 implementation of the agency attrition analysis process and the number of vacant
 20 positions eliminated and any other information relating to personnel numbers, costs,
 21 and historical vacancies.

22 D. For the purposes of this Section, the following terms shall have the
 23 following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

24 * * *

25 **(3) "Management board" shall have the same meaning as R.S. 17:3128.1.**

26 ~~(3)(4)~~ "Vacant position" means any authorized table of organization full or
 27 part-time position of employment for which a budget has been approved and an
 28 appropriation has been made or a transfer of funds effected pursuant to law which
 29 is funded in whole or in part by the state general fund, but which is not filled.

1

Section 5. R.S. 36:651(F)(6) and (L)(1)(a) are hereby repealed.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 484 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Abraham

Present law provides that the La. Health Works Commission serves as a statewide coordinating body for healthcare workforce development. Present law provides that its primary purpose is to bring together key state agencies, education systems, and healthcare organizations to integrate and align resources, policies, and strategies that address La.'s healthcare workforce needs. The commission focuses on analyzing workforce supply and demand, recruiting and retaining healthcare professionals (especially in under served areas), improving education and training capacity, and enhancing the public image of healthcare careers. Present law provides that the commission studies workforce and education challenges, develops recommendations, and reports annually to the legislature, while using data collection and analysis to support long-term planning and ensure an adequate, well-trained healthcare workforce across the state. Present law provides that the La. Board of Regents (Bd. of Regents) is responsible for providing staff and facilities necessary for the commission to operate, receiving member nominations from participating entities, and supporting the commission's organizational structure.

Proposed law retains present law and transfers the administrative and staffing functions of the La. Health Works Commission from the Bd. of Regents to Louisiana Works.

Present law provides that the Bd. of Regents is responsible for evaluating and promoting the development of business incubator facilities on public college and university campuses. Present law requires the Bd. of Regents to establish evaluation criteria-including institutional resources such as technology, personnel, student capacity, and research infrastructure-then survey and assess campuses to determine their suitability for incubator programs. Present law provides that, based on the analysis, the Bd. of Regents identifies and recommends qualified campuses for incubator implementation and reports its findings and recommendations to the legislature and the Dept. of Economic Development.

Proposed law retains present law and transfers the duties related to evaluating and promoting the development of small business incubators on public college and university campuses from the Bd. of Regents to the management boards of the public colleges and universities.

Proposed law defines "management board" as a governing board that is provided for in present law and is responsible for supervising the day-to-day operations of colleges and universities under its jurisdiction. Present law (La. Constitution, Article VIII) list the management boards as follows:

- (1) Bd. of Supervisors of Louisiana State University.
- (2) Bd. of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System.
- (3) Bd. of Supervisors of Southern University.
- (4) Bd. of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges.

Present law authorizes the Board of Regents to develop an accountability process to monitor performance at the institutional level in each of the major areas of research, student learning and development, faculty development and quality, and to assure that progress toward

excellent education programming and opportunities are being made and funded.

Proposed law provides for financial accountability through a framework that includes continuous monitoring and evaluation of institutional fiscal performance by requiring the Board of Regents to establish a uniform fiscal policy adopted by each public postsecondary education management board.

Proposed law requires the Board of Regents to develop and implement a fiscal early warning system to monitor the financial condition of each public postsecondary education institution.

Present law provides for the La. common application to be used by applicants applying for admissions to La. public college and universities to be developed by the Bd. of Regents. Present law further provides that individual colleges and universities are to use the La. common application but may require the applicant to submit supplemental materials. Present law also provides that the colleges and universities may also use the national "common application" that is developed and administered by the not-for-profit membership organization.

Proposed law retains present law and transfers the development functions of the state common application from the Bd. of Regents to the management boards of the public colleges and universities.

Present law provides that a public college or university may receive a Purple Star Campus designation by applying to the La. Board of Regents and demonstrating that it meets established criteria designed to support military-connected students. Present law provides that, in order to qualify, a college or university must implement specific initiatives such as designating a staff member to serve as a point of contact for military families, providing accessible information on admissions, financial aid, and support services for veterans and dependents, and adopting policies or programs that facilitate academic transitions and promote campus awareness of military-related issues. The Bd. of Regents reviews applications and awards the designation to colleges and universities that satisfy the requirements by showing a commitment to serve the unique needs of military-affiliated students.

Proposed law retains present law and transfers the administration of the Purple Star Campus program from the Bd. of Regents to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

Present law provides that state college and university facilities, or consortia thereof, may undertake minor repairs, renovations, or property purchases under one million dollars (adjusted annually for inflation) and larger self-funded projects up to \$10 million without including them in the capital outlay budget, provided they receive approval from the Bd. of Regents, the appropriate management board, and, for larger projects, the division of administration and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget. Minor projects may use short-term loans up to one year, while larger projects must be funded through self-generated revenues, grants, donations, or through local or federal funds, with funds managed and disbursed by the Office of Facility Planning and Control, and any surplus or interest refunded to the college or university.

Proposed law retains present law that requires colleges and universities to continue to obtain approval on construction projects from their applicable management board but removes the requirement that the college also obtain approval from the Bd. of Regents and increases the amount of minor repairs that may be undertaken from one million dollars to two million dollars. Proposed law further requires that reports of the projects minor repairs and the self-funded projects to be reported to the Bd. of Regents.

Present law creates the La. Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund as a special treasury fund to support and expand cybersecurity degree and certificate programs at public colleges and universities to meet workforce needs. Present law provides that the fund consists of

legislative appropriations and donations, retains interest earnings, and carries forward unexpended balances. Present law further provides that monies are appropriated to the Bd. of Regents for distribution to institutions, subject to a requirement that each receiving college or university secures at least a 25% private match, which may include cash or in-kind contributions. Present law also provides that the fund allocations are supplemental and may not supplant existing state or federal funding or be included in the Bd. of Regents' funding formula. Present law also establishes the Cybersecurity Education Management Council to advise the Bd. of Regents on distributions, with specified membership, duties, and meeting requirements. Present law also requires the Bd. of Regents to annually report to the legislature on fund distributions, supported programs, and workforce outcomes, including job creation data.

Proposed law retains present law and transfers the administrative and staffing functions of the La. Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund and the Cybersecurity Education Management Council from the Bd. of Regents to Louisiana Works.

Present law provides for the La. Universities Marine Consortium for research and education, under the authority and governance of the Bd. of Regents, which serves as its fiscal agent and oversees its budget, funding, and operations. Present law provides that the Bd. of Regents is granted broad powers to manage and supervise the consortium, including the authority to receive and administer public and private funds, set fees, acquire and maintain property and facilities, hire personnel, establish academic programs, adopt rules, and enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with public and private entities for research and education purposes. Present law provides for funding through separate legislative appropriations, allows the consortium to engage in joint projects and partnerships, and specifies that liability for consortium activities rests with the consortium as represented by the Board of Regents.

Proposed law retains present law and transfers the administrative and staffing functions of the La. Universities Marine Consortium from the Bd. of Regents to the Bd. of supervisors of Louisiana State University.

Proposed law creates the Louisiana Marine Consortium Efficiency and Research Competitiveness Commission to study and make recommendations about the operations, governance, administration, funding structure, and research competitiveness of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium for Research and Education.

Present law provides that the Bd. of Regents establishes an agency attrition analysis process specifically for higher education systems. Present law requires the Bd. of Regents to perform a systematic review of the history of employee vacancies in positions funded fully or partially by the state general fund and to guide a goal of reducing such positions by five percent annually for three years, with reductions applied proportionally across all salary ranges. Present law requires the Bd. of Regents to develop and implement the process for each higher education system, including analyzing general staffing needs, the cost of filling vacant positions, and other relevant factors to decide whether to retain or eliminate positions. The Bd. of Regents is also tasked with reporting to the Commission on Streamlining Government on the results of the process, including state general fund savings, positions eliminated, and personnel-related data, thereby providing oversight, ensuring compliance, and supporting fiscal accountability across higher education systems.

Proposed law retains present law and transfers the agency attrition and analysis from the Bd. of Regents to the management boards of the public colleges and universities. Proposed law further removes the reference to the Commission on Streamlining Government because the commission was terminated on January 12, 2023 under present law (R.S. 24:101-109).

(Amends R.S. 17:2048.51(A), (E), (F), (G)(1)(a)(i), (J), 2048.51(O)(1)(intro para), 2048.51(O)(2), and (3)(c), 3128.1(A)(intro para), 3128.1(B), (C), 3134, 3138(A), (B), and (E), 3138.5(B)(1), (D)(1), (2), (D)(4)(intro para) and 3138.5(D)(4)(f), and (5), and (E),

3138.9(A)(3) and (5), (B)(1) and (C), and 3452, R.S. 39:128(B)(1) and (4)(a)(i), and R.S. 42:375.2(A), 372.2(B)(intro para) and 375.2(B)(1), (C), and (D)(3); adds R.S. 17:3128.1(D), 3138(G), and 3454(E), R.S. 36:309(E)(3) and (4), and R.S. 42:375.2(D)(4); repeals R.S. 36:651(F)(6) and (L)(1)(a))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Changes the administrator to the Purple Star Campus Designation from the higher education management boards to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.
2. Changes the exempted amount of minor repairs on college campuses from \$1 million to \$2 million.
3. Requires reporting to the Bd. of Regents.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Clarifies that a survey is conducted for purposes of establishing small business incubators instead of incubator facilities.
3. Creates the Louisiana Marine Consortium Efficiency and Research Competitiveness Commission.
4. Requires the Board of Regents to establish a uniform fiscal policy and a fiscal early warning system, and provides requirements for both.
5. Deletes prior senate floor amendments.