

---

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.