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 DIGEST
 

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SB 484 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Abraham

### **La. Health Works Commission**

Present law creates the La. Health Works Commission under the jurisdiction of the Bd. of Regents. Provides that one of the members is the secretary of La. Works or the secretary's designee. Proposed law specifies that this member shall be the commission co-chair.

Present law provides that the commission has an executive committee that elects the commission chair. Proposed law instead provides that the committee shall elect the co-chair.

### **Incubator Facilities on Campuses**

Present law requires the Bd. of Regents to conduct a survey of colleges and universities for the purposes of establishing incubator facilities and establish criteria for evaluating institutions. Proposed law applies these requirements to each public postsecondary education management board instead of the Bd. of Regents.

### **Fiscal Accountability**

Present law requires the Bd. of Regents to develop an accountability process for postsecondary education. Proposed law instead requires the board to establish a uniform fiscal policy to be adopted by each management board no later than Dec. 31, 2026. Provides for specific policy parameters and requires the Bd. of Regents to develop and implement a fiscal early warning system to monitor the financial condition of each institution and to require each management board to develop and implement a corrective action plan in response to an institution identified as being in fiscal distress. Requires the Bd. of Regents to refer the matter to the office of the inspector general if a board fails to take corrective action.

### **Common Application**

Present law requires the Bd. of Regents, in collaboration with each management board and the chairman of the House and Senate Education committees, to provide for the development of a common application for applying to public colleges and universities in the state. Proposed law instead requires each management board, in collaboration with each institution and such chairmen, to do so for applying to institutions in its system. Requires each of these applications to be fully implemented and available to students applying for admission for the 2026-2027 academic year.

### **Purple Star Campus**

Present law requires the Bd. of Regents to establish a process for a postsecondary education institution to be designated as a "Purple Star Campus". Proposed law applies present law requirements to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs instead of the Bd. of Regents.

### **La. Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund and Cybersecurity Education Management Council**

Present law creates and provides for the La. Cybersecurity Talent Initiative Fund and provides that monies in the fund shall be appropriated to the Bd. of Regents to be distributed to public postsecondary education institutions. Proposed law provides for appropriation to, and distribution by, La. Works instead of the Bd. of Regents.

Present law creates the Cybersecurity Education Management Council for the purpose of advising and making recommendations with respect to distributions from the fund. Present law places the council within the Dept. of Education for purposes of executive branch organization. Proposed law transfers it to La. Works.

### **LUMCON**

Present law creates the La. Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium for Research and Education (LUMCON) as a body corporate under the authority of the Bd. of Regents. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law creates the La. Marine Consortium Efficiency and Research Competitiveness Commission to study and make recommendations regarding LUMCON. Provides for the following commission members:

- (1) The president of the LSU System or his designee.
- (2) The president of the Southern University System or his designee.
- (3) The president of the University of La. System or his designee.
- (4) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System or his designee.
- (5) One member representing the La. Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, who shall be the president of Tulane University or his designee.

Proposed law provides that the executive director of LUMCON shall serve as a nonvoting ex officio member of the commission and shall serve as secretary; that the members shall elect a chairman from among the voting members; and that the commission shall meet as necessary and may request information, data, reports, and assistance from LUMCON and participating institutions.

Proposed law requires the commission, not later than Jan. 2, 2027, to submit a written report to the House and Senate committees on education, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Bd. of Regents. Requires the executive director of LUMCON to prepare and submit the report.

Proposed law provides for commission termination on Jan. 2, 2027.

### **Capital Outlay**

Present law provides for the capital outlay budgeting process and provides for exemptions to present law, including minor repairs, renovation, or construction of buildings or other facilities or the purchase of land, buildings, or other facilities when the construction cost or purchase price is less than or equal to \$1 million, which may be undertaken by or on the campus of a state college, university, higher education facility, or consortium without being included in the capital outlay budget but shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Regents and the appropriate management board. Proposed law raises this threshold from \$1 million to \$2 million and removes present law relative to the approval of the Bd. of Regents.

Present law provides no state college, university, higher education facility, or consortium may incur debt to fund any project that is not included in the capital outlay budget other than a short-term loan not to exceed one year for the purposes included in present law. Provides that any short-term loan shall be issued in accordance with present law and shall not constitute or create any debt, liability, or loan of the credit of or a pledge of the full faith and credit of the state but shall be solely the obligation of the appropriate governing board or postsecondary education management board, or any successor. Proposed law removes the reference to the appropriate governing board and adds that each management board shall report projects initiated when the construction cost or purchase price is between \$250,000 and \$2 million to the Bd. of Regents on a monthly basis.

Present law authorizes a university, higher education facility, or consortium to undertake any new construction, maintenance, or repair project not exceeding \$10 million solely funded from self-generated revenues, grants, donations, or local or federal funds without being included in the Capital Outlay Bill, provided that the project is approved by the appropriate governing board or management board; the Bd. of Regents; the division of administration, office of facility planning and control; and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB).

Proposed law removes present law relative to approval by the Bd. of Regents and adds that each management board shall report projects initiated to the Bd. of Regents on a monthly basis.

### **Agency Attrition Analysis Process**

Present law requires the Bd. of Regents to establish and implement an agency attrition analysis process to be used by each higher education system to review historical employee vacancies within each agency with a goal to reduce by five percent annually for three years by an equally proportionate reduction of such positions across all salary ranges of equal increments, beginning Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

Proposed law instead requires each public postsecondary management board to do this for each institution under its jurisdiction beginning Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Present law requires, in the first day of the month following the month in which the executive budget is submitted to JLCB, the Bd. of Regents to provide a written report to the Commission on Streamlining Government. Proposed law instead requires each management board to submit this report to JLCB.

(Amends R.S. 17:2048.51(C)(1) and (G)(1)(b)(i), 3128.1(A)(intro. para.), (B), and (C), 3134, 3138(A), (B), and (E), 3138.5(B)(1), (D)(1), (2), (4)(intro. para.) and (f), and (5), and (E), and 3138.9(A)(3) and (5), (B)(1), and (C), R.S. 39:128(B)(1) and (4)(a)(i), and R.S. 42:375.2(A), (B)(intro. para.) and (1), (C), and (D)(3); Adds R.S. 17:3128.1(D), 3138(G), and 3454(E), R.S. 36:309(E)(3), 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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Relative to the La. Health Works Commission, reinstate present law relative to Bd. of Regents' jurisdiction, provide that the secretary of La. Works or the secretary's designee shall serve as the co-chair, and provide that the executive committee shall elect the other co-chair.
2. Reinstate present law providing for the Bd. of Regents' authority relative to LUMCON.