

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 172

BY SENATOR REESE

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES. Creates the Legislative Higher Education Funding and Formula Task Force.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To create the Legislative Higher Education Funding and Formula Task Force to study and
3 evaluate the funding structure of Louisiana's public postsecondary education
4 enterprise and the allocation of funding to higher education's two-year and four-year
5 institutions through the outcomes-based funding formula, and to provide
6 recommendations to the legislature and the Louisiana Board of Regents regarding
7 potential reforms, structure, and funding considerations for public postsecondary
8 education institutions.

9 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana recognizes postsecondary education as a critical
10 driver of workforce development, economic competitiveness, civic engagement, and upward
11 mobility; and

12 WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana provides that
13 the Louisiana Board of Regents shall plan, coordinate, and recommend funding for public
14 postsecondary education, and develop a formula for equitable distribution of funds to public
15 institutions of postsecondary education; and

16 WHEREAS, Act 462 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature first required
17 the Board of Regents to adopt an outcomes-based funding formula for public postsecondary
18 education to allocate state appropriations among public postsecondary education institutions;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, funding for public postsecondary education is derived from multiple
3 sources; and

4 WHEREAS, a review of the history of higher education funding in Louisiana is a
5 critical part of a comprehensive analysis of resources provided and allocated to public
6 institutions across the state; and

7 WHEREAS, postsecondary institutions are facing a changing fiscal landscape,
8 characterized by higher operating, auxiliary, and athletic costs, funding deficits, outstanding
9 debt, fluctuating enrollment, concerns regarding affordability, student debt, institutional
10 stability, and changing perceptions regarding the value of obtaining a degree or credential;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, members of the legislature have recently raised questions and concerns
13 regarding the structure, implementation, transparency, and outcomes associated with the
14 current funding formula; and

15 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the legislature to appropriate funding for public
16 higher education and to ensure that funds are distributed in a fair, transparent, accountable,
17 and effective manner that advances critical performance outcomes such as student success
18 and workforce development across the state; and

19 WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of public postsecondary funding and the
20 funding formula will provide the legislature the opportunity to both measure the adequacy
21 of funding provided and examine whether the formula appropriately accounts for
22 institutional missions, enrollment trends, student outcomes, regional needs, workforce
23 priorities, and operational costs.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
25 does hereby establish and provide for the Legislative Higher Education Funding and
26 Formula Task Force to study the Louisiana Board of Regents' funding formula and related
27 funding methodologies for public postsecondary education institutions, and to propose
28 recommendations, together with specific proposals for legislation, by written report to the
29 Senate Committee on Finance, House Committee on Appropriations, Senate Committee on
30 Education, House Committee on Education, and to the David R. Poynter Legislative

1 Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than February 26, 2027.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall conduct, at minimum, the
3 following:

- 4 (1) An assessment of historical and current funding structures and primary
5 sources of financially supporting public postsecondary education including
6 State General Fund appropriations, statutory dedications, federal grants,
7 tuition and mandatory fees, auxiliary enterprises, private philanthropy, and
8 other institutional revenues.
- 9 (2) An assessment of historical and current formula methodologies and metrics
10 used in the calculation of Louisiana's public higher education funding
11 formula for two-year and four-year institutions.
- 12 (3) A comparative analysis of Louisiana's funding structures and funding
13 formula with national best practices and those of regional peer states.
- 14 (4) A longitudinal evaluation of Louisiana's postsecondary education state
15 funding, performance-based funding metrics, accountability measures, and
16 the changing costs of educating students.
- 17 (5) Recommendations for legislation, if any, necessary to strengthen higher
18 education funding to provide financial stability in Louisiana and improve the
19 public postsecondary formula structure to drive outcomes and institutional
20 performance in alignment with workforce needs.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following
22 members:

- 23 (1) The chair of the House Committee on Appropriations, or his designee.
- 24 (2) The chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, or his designee.
- 25 (3) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of
26 the House of Representatives.
- 27 (4) Two members of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate.
- 28 (5) The commissioner of higher education, or his designee.
- 29 (6) One chancellor of a two-year community or technical college appointed by
30 the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges System.

1 (7) The president of the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and
2 Mechanical College System, or his designee, as an ex officio nonvoting
3 member.

4 (8) The president of the Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical
5 College System, or his designee, as an ex officio nonvoting member.

6 (9) The president of the University of Louisiana System, or his designee, as an
7 ex officio nonvoting member.

8 (10) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges System,
9 or his designee, as an ex officio nonvoting member.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall solicit information from the
11 Division of Administration for economic forecasting expertise.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the
13 names of designees to the task force to the secretary of the Senate no later than August 1,
14 2026.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene for its first meeting no
16 later than September 1, 2026, at the call of the commissioner of higher education, and at the
17 first meeting, the president of the Senate shall appoint a chairman and the members shall
18 elect other officers as the task force may deem appropriate.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a
20 quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the
21 affirmative vote of a majority of the members.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
23 without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be
24 individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the
26 submission of its report or February 26, 2027, whichever occurs first.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 commissioner of higher education, the president of the Louisiana State University System,
29 the president of the Southern University System, the president of the University of Louisiana
30 System, and the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges System.

