

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 176

BY SENATOR MIZELL

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana office of alcohol and tobacco control (ATC) and the Board of Regents to jointly study the feasibility, security implications, and administrative requirements of enabling student identification cards issued by Louisiana postsecondary institutions to function as a form of digital identification verification, and to report findings to the legislature.

WHEREAS, Louisiana's public and private postsecondary institutions issue student identification cards that are widely used for campus access, meal plans, library services, and other institutional functions; and

WHEREAS, rapid advancements in digital identity technology have expanded the potential uses of secure, institution-issued identification credentials; and

WHEREAS, the office of alcohol and tobacco control is responsible for regulating and enforcing state laws related to the sale of alcohol and tobacco products, including the verification of legally required identification; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents oversees the state's public higher education systems and maintains statewide policies related to student records, data security, and institutional operations; and

WHEREAS, several states and private-sector entities have begun exploring or implementing digital identification systems capable of verifying age or identity through secure, encrypted platforms; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana may benefit from evaluating whether student identification cards, physical or digital, could be integrated into a secure digital verification framework that meets ATC standards for age and identity verification; and

WHEREAS, such a study would allow policymakers to assess potential benefits, including convenience for students, modernization of verification processes, and reduction of fraudulent identification, while also evaluating risks related to privacy, cybersecurity, and institutional capacity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of alcohol and tobacco control and the Board of Regents to conduct a joint study on the feasibility of allowing student identification cards issued by Louisiana postsecondary institutions to be used for digital identification verification, including but not limited to age verification for alcohol and tobacco purchases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include, at minimum:

(1) An evaluation of technological requirements and security standards necessary for digital verification.

(2) An assessment of privacy and data-protection implications for students and institutions, as well as savings for both.

(3) A review of potential costs, funding needs, and implementation timelines.

(4) Consultation with Louisiana higher education systems, campus security officials, relevant technology experts, and best practices from other states.

(5) Identification of any statutory or regulatory changes required to authorize such use.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of alcohol and tobacco control and the Board of Regents shall submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Judiciary B and the Senate Committee on Education no later than February 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of the office of alcohol and tobacco control and the commissioner of higher education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE