

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 165

BY REPRESENTATIVE AUSTIN BADON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents, in consultation with the public postsecondary education management boards, to study and make recommendations relative to including students who graduate from an institution in calculations for determining and for reporting on student graduation and completion rates by public postsecondary education institutions; to provide for a report to the legislative education committees of study findings and recommendations; and to provide for related matters.

WHEREAS, earning a college credential enhances an individual's opportunity for employment and advancement; and

WHEREAS, college graduates have increased earning power and have been shown to contribute greatly to the good of society; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education (USDOE) recognizes the value of a college credential and collects such information on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, in addition to collecting data on graduates, USDOE collects information on graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, the USDOE graduation rate calculation is based on tracking an entering cohort of first-time, full-time degree-seeking freshmen who graduate from that institution; and

WHEREAS, transfer students are not counted in the USDOE graduation rate for either the sending or receiving institution; and

WHEREAS, entering part-time students are not counted in the USDOE graduation rate; and

WHEREAS, all completers in postsecondary education are important contributors to Louisiana's economy and society, whether or not they meet specific criteria for inclusion in a federally defined rate; and

WHEREAS, public postsecondary education institutions should be recognized and given credit for graduating students, regardless of where the student begins postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents' data systems provide the agency with the capability to report graduation and completion rates in ways that present a more complete picture of the results achieved by public postsecondary education institutions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents, in consultation with the public postsecondary education management boards, to study and make recommendations relative to including students who graduate from an institution in calculations for determining and for reporting on student graduation and completion rates by public postsecondary education institutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall report in writing on study findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and to the Senate Committee on Education by not later than March 1, 2011.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE