

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY SENATOR NEVERS

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY. Requests the Board of Regents to examine the effectiveness of the postsecondary education funding formula and provide for phased in implementation of significant changes, specifically as related to performance-based funding.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents to examine the current funding formula for public postsecondary education to assess whether the components of the formula adequately support the goals and objectives of the master plan for higher education and appropriately recognize and address the significant differences among the institutions of postsecondary education in the state, and to provide for a mechanism to phase in the implementation of significant changes in the formula, specifically those related to performance-based funding, in a manner that does not impair the ability of each college and university to meet the needs of its students and the region it serves.

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(A) of the Louisiana Constitution provides that the Board of Regents shall have budgetary responsibility for all public postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, the state constitution further charges the Board of Regents with the responsibility to "formulate and make timely revision of a master plan for postsecondary education" which must include "a formula for equitable distribution of funds to the institutions of postsecondary education"; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Board of Regents that the postsecondary education funding formula fully recognize and appropriately consider the unique

1 characteristics of each institution of postsecondary education in the state including role,
2 scope, and mission, the specific nature and credit hour requirements of degree programs
3 offered, community and workforce needs, enrollment characteristics, including the number
4 of nontraditional students served, and admission standards; and

5 WHEREAS, it is both logical and appropriate that such funding formula also contain
6 a performance-based funding component designed to reward institutions for high
7 performance, provide academic accountability, and serve as an incentive for continued
8 educational and institutional improvement; and

9 WHEREAS, it is also appropriate to provide for a reasonable period of time within
10 which to phase in significant changes made to the components of the postsecondary
11 education funding formula, specifically in regard to performance-based funding, that will
12 allow each postsecondary educational institution to make necessary adjustments from an
13 academic, programmatic, and resource allocation standpoint as well as to prevent individual
14 institutions from receiving disproportionate, and possibly devastating, negative impacts that
15 often result from sudden and significant change.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
17 urge and request the Board of Regents to examine the current funding formula for public
18 postsecondary education to assess whether the components of the formula adequately
19 support the goals and objectives of the master plan for higher education and appropriately
20 recognize and address the significant differences among the institutions of postsecondary
21 education in the state, and to provide for a mechanism to phase in the implementation of
22 significant changes in the formula, specifically those related to performance-based funding,
23 in a manner that does not impair the ability of each college and university to meet the needs
24 of its students and the region it serves.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents submit a written report of
26 their findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education and the House
27 Committee on Education not later than March 1, 2011.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
29 chairman of the Board of Regents, the chairman of each postsecondary education
30 management board, and the commissioner of higher education.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

Nevers

SCR No. 108

Requests the Board of Regents to examine the current funding formula for public postsecondary education to assess whether the components of the formula adequately support the goals and objectives of the master plan for higher education and appropriately recognize and address the significant differences among the institutions of postsecondary education in the state, and to provide for a mechanism to phase in the implementation of significant changes in the formula, specifically those related to performance-based funding, in a manner that does not impair the ability of each public college and university to meet the needs of its students and the region it serves.

Requires the Board of Regents to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the Senate and House education committees not later than March 1, 2011.