

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY SENATOR NEVERS

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

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

WHEREAS, it is also appropriate to provide for a reasonable period of time within which to phase in significant changes made to the components of the postsecondary

education funding formula, specifically in regard to performance-based funding, that will allow each postsecondary educational institution to make necessary adjustments from an academic, programmatic, and resource allocation standpoint as well as to prevent individual institutions from receiving disproportionate, and possibly devastating, negative impacts that often result from sudden and significant change.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 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.

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES