HLS 11RS-1694 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2011

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 110

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHRODER

HIGHER ED/BD REGENTS: Requests the Board of Regents to study inequalities in current tuition at four-year schools

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Board of Regents to study the disparity in tuition charged at public
3	four-year universities as compared to their Southern Regional Education Board
4	peers, to develop a proposal for amending the GRAD Act in a way that will mitigate
5	the disparity, and to submit the proposal to the legislature.
6	WHEREAS, in 2010, the Legislature of Louisiana authorized the postsecondary
7	education management boards to institute substantial tuition increases at their respective
8	institutions as an element of the Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas (GRAD)
9	Act; and
10	WHEREAS, for institutions that meet their GRAD Act performance targets, the law
11	authorizes tuition increases of ten percent per year until tuition at an institution reaches the
12	average tuition charged at its Southern Regional Education Board peer institutions; and
13	WHEREAS, though the legislature continues to stand behind the policy direction
14	established in the GRAD Act, it also recognizes that authorizing the same tuition increase
15	at all institutions does not treat these institutions equally because presently there is such a
16	wide disparity among the institutions in the gap between their tuition and the peer average
17	tuition; and
18	WHEREAS, to consider but one example, tuition and fees at Southeastern Louisiana
19	University, according to data from the Southern Regional Education Board for the 2009-
20	2010 academic year, was about sixty-three percent of the median tuition and fees charged
21	by its peer institutions while Louisiana State University was charging tuition and fees at a

1 rate that was over seventy-three percent of those charged by its peers and Louisiana Tech

- 2 University at nearly ninety percent of its peers; and
- WHEREAS, the GRAD Act does not discriminate between institutions in its
- 4 expectation for continuous improvement of performance, but a plan is needed to eliminate
- 5 the discrimination in tuition and to reduce the disparity in the time it will take institutions
- 6 to reach the tuition level that is authorized by the GRAD Act.
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
- 8 urge and request the Board of Regents to study the disparity in tuition charged at public four-
- 9 year universities as compared to their Southern Regional Education Board peers, to develop
- a proposal for amending the GRAD Act in a way that will mitigate the disparity, and to
- submit the proposal to the legislature not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the
- 12 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- chairman of the Board of Regents and the commissioner of higher education.

## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Schroder HCR No. 110

Requests the Board of Regents to study the disparity in tuition charged at public four-year universities as compared to their Southern Regional Education Board peers, to develop a proposal for amending the GRAD Act in a way that will mitigate the disparity, and to submit the proposal to the legislature not later than 60 days prior to the 2012 R.S.