

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL JACKSON

HIGHER ED/BD REGENTS: Directs Board of Regents to restore funding of LOUIS to at least the percentage provided for in FY 2009-2010 and expresses support for LOUIS as a critical component of the success of public postsecondary education institutions

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To direct the Board of Regents to restore its funding of LOUIS, the Louisiana Library
3 Network, to at least the percentage provided for in Fiscal Year 2009-2010 and to
4 express support for LOUIS as a critical component of the success of the state's public
5 postsecondary education institutions.

6 WHEREAS, LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Network, provides essential information,
7 resources, and services to the public postsecondary education institutions of the state; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1992, LOUIS was formed in response to shrinking library funding
9 in the effort to equalize technology and resources in academic libraries across the state, and
10 since then, LOUIS has contributed significantly to the success of the state's public
11 postsecondary education institutions as well as museums and archives; and

12 WHEREAS, LOUIS provides around-the-clock technology and enterprise solutions
13 to students, faculty, and staff so that scholarly materials can be purchased, identified,
14 searched, and shared; and

15 WHEREAS, the essential resources and services that LOUIS offers include the
16 library automation system and catalogs of library collections, electronic research databases
17 and full-text journals, remote access to library resources twenty-four hours a day,
18 interlibrary loan and reciprocal borrowing among all member libraries, and the Louisiana
19 Digital Library, as well as centralized servers and an expert support staff; and

1 WHEREAS, LOUIS, a proven model of how to collaborate and consolidate, reduces
2 duplication and saves the state millions of dollars annually; and

3 WHEREAS, LOUIS purchased more than nineteen million dollars worth of resources
4 for member libraries in 2010 for only three million one hundred thousand dollars,
5 representing a huge savings to each campus and to the state; and

6 WHEREAS, in the past, the Board of Regents has provided seventy percent of the
7 funding for LOUIS, with member institutions contributing the remaining thirty percent, a
8 feasible amount for all; and

9 WHEREAS, LOUIS funding is uncertain for 2011, and member institutions may not
10 have the funds to cover an increased share of this funding, especially in the face of current
11 dramatic budget cuts, thus putting in peril essential library resources and services across the
12 state; and

13 WHEREAS, LOUIS is essential to the functions of each of the state's public
14 postsecondary education institutions, because without it, students would no longer be able
15 to conduct the research for much of their course work, and faculty would no longer have
16 access to many of the resources they need to continue to produce quality research in their
17 fields; and

18 WHEREAS, without LOUIS, Louisiana's public postsecondary education institutions
19 would have trouble meeting certain Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
20 core requirements and comprehensive standards, and the loss of SACS accreditation would
21 negatively affect an institution's ability to award degrees and students' ability to receive
22 financial aid and could also have a detrimental impact on its National Collegiate Athletic
23 Association accreditation; and

24 WHEREAS, the importance of LOUIS to Louisiana's public postsecondary education
25 institutions cannot be overstated, and it is critical that it remain an available resource for the
26 state's higher education community.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
28 direct the Board of Regents to restore its funding of LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Network,
29 to at least the percentage provided for in Fiscal Year 2009-2010 and does hereby express

1 support for LOUIS as a critical component of the success of the state's public postsecondary
2 education institutions.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
4 to the chairman of the Board of Regents and to 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)]

Michael Jackson

HCR No. 129

Directs that the Board of Regents restore its funding of LOUIS, the La. Library Network, to at least the percentage provided for in FY 2009-2010 and expresses support for LOUIS as a critical component of the success of the state's public postsecondary education institutions.