HLS 11RS-1926 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2011

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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

HIGHER ED/BD REGENTS: Requests the Board of Regents to study the structure of the La. Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON)

A RESOLUTION

2	To urge and request the Board of Regents to study the role, mission, and structure of the
3	Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium and report its findings to the House
4	Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2012
5	Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.
6	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) was formed
7	to coordinate and stimulate Louisiana's public postsecondary education activities in marine
8	research and education through an executive board that reports to the Board of Regents; and
9	WHEREAS, LUMCON's research portfolio expands our knowledge of estuaries,
10	coastal waters, and open ocean ecosystems and supports issues of importance to both
11	Louisiana's needs in marine science and coastal resources and those of the global ocean; and
12	WHEREAS, LUMCON provides marine education programs to educators and
13	students from early childhood to the universities, as well as adult education courses to the
14	general public; and
15	WHEREAS, LUMCON has vessels, facilities, and researchers that enable quick
16	responses in cases of coastal and gulf emergencies and provide scientific expertise in both
17	short-term and long-term response to such events; and
18	WHEREAS, LUMCON oversees the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary
19	Program, one of twenty-eight national estuary programs in the United States; and
20	WHEREAS, the Coastal Restoration and Enhancement through Science and
21	Technology program is an alliance of eleven academic institutions within southern Louisiana

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1	and Mississippi, and LUMCON serves as the administrative and financial agent for the
2	program; and
3	WHEREAS, the Gulf Sustainability Consortium and the Gulf Research Initiative for
4	Resilient Louisiana Consortia have been created to consider the broader issue of coastal
5	needs; and
6	WHEREAS, a strong unified consortium is needed at this time, and LUMCON has
7	great potential as a leader in this field; and
8	WHEREAS, the role, mission, and structure of LUMCON in relation to these and
9	other entities should be evaluated with an eye toward creating a strong, collaborative
10	relationship with all existing consortia working in the coastal, wetlands, and marine
11	education areas; and
12	WHEREAS, state budget reductions have put the sustainability and faculty
13	productivity of LUMCON at risk; and
14	WHEREAS, a specific plan to maximize research coordination, faculty, and facilities
15	is needed to expand the successful reach of this institution; and
16	WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes the value of LUMCON as well as the need
17	to assess the current fiscal strength and long term support needed for the facility; and
18	WHEREAS, currently, the executive board is working diligently to develop a
19	comprehensive plan to address and support the future of LUMCON with the support of the
20	Board of Regents; and
21	WHEREAS, coastal and marine research and education are paramount not only to
22	Louisiana's economic viability but to its very existence.
23	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
24	Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents to study the
25	role, mission, and structure of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium and report its
26	findings to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the
27	convening of the 2012 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.
28	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study also shall include an examination of
29	the relation of LUMCON to other consortia to determine the appropriate authority and
30	funding levels needed.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

- 2 chairman of the Board of Regents and the executive director of the Louisiana Universities
- 3 Marine Consortium.

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)]

Harrison HR No. 50

Requests the Board of Regents to study the role, mission, and structure of the La. Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) and report its findings to the House education committee not later than 60 days prior to the 2012 R.S. Provides that the study also include an examination of the relation of LUMCON to other consortia to determine the appropriate authority and funding levels needed.