

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 110

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHRODER AND SENATOR NEVERS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request 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.

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Legislature of Louisiana authorized the postsecondary education management boards to institute substantial tuition increases at their respective institutions as an element of the Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas (GRAD) Act; and

WHEREAS, for institutions that meet their GRAD Act performance targets, the law authorizes tuition increases of ten percent per year until tuition at an institution reaches the average tuition charged at its Southern Regional Education Board peer institutions; and

WHEREAS, though the legislature continues to stand behind the policy direction established in the GRAD Act, it also recognizes that authorizing the same tuition increase at all institutions does not treat these institutions equally because presently there is such a wide disparity among the institutions in the gap between their tuition and the peer average tuition; and

WHEREAS, to consider but one example, tuition and fees at Southeastern Louisiana University, according to data from the Southern Regional Education Board for the 2009-2010 academic year, was about sixty-three percent of the median tuition and fees charged by its peer institutions while Louisiana State University was charging tuition and fees at a rate that was over seventy-three percent of those charged by its peers and Louisiana Tech University at nearly ninety percent of its peers; and

WHEREAS, the GRAD Act does not discriminate between institutions in its expectation for continuous improvement of performance, but a plan is needed to eliminate the discrimination in tuition and to reduce the disparity in the time it will take institutions to reach the tuition level that is authorized by the GRAD Act.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request 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 sixty days prior to the beginning of the 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.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE