

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL JACKSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents to develop a permanent funding formula for LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Network, and to express support for LOUIS as a critical component of the success of the state's public postsecondary education institutions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, higher education funding has been severely reduced during the past three years impacting all institutions, boards, and systems; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents has fought to maintain funding for LOUIS, and has determined that it is in the state's best interest to formalize a funding mechanism to ensure the future of this critical resource for the state's higher education community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents to develop a permanent funding formula for LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Network, which shall include a centralized funding base from the Board of Regents, assessments to the management boards, and individual user fees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall continue to support and promote LOUIS as a critical component of the success of the state's public postsecondary education institutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Regents and to the commissioner of higher education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE