

Authorizes the LSU Board of Supervisors to increase tuition and fees for the medical school and dental school of the LSU Health Sciences Center-N.O. and the medical school of the LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport as follows:

Existing law (R.S. 17:3351.11) authorizes the LSU Board of Supervisors to impose specific tuition and attendance fee amounts for students (full-time, La. residents) attending the medical school (\$11,613 per year) and dental school (\$9,894 per year) of the LSU Health Sciences Center-N.O. and the medical school (\$10,052 per year) of the LSU Health Sciences Center-Shreveport.

Existing law (R.S. 17:3139(F), 3351, and 3351.5) authorizes specified increases in tuition and attendance fees at specified institutions, including the medical schools and dental school. (R.S. 17:3351.1 and 3351.3 authorize assessment of certain fees.)

New law authorizes the LSU Board of Supervisors to increase tuition and fee amounts established pursuant to existing law or any other provisions of law by up to 5% each year, without additional legislative approval, for five years beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year. Limits tuition and fee amounts to the average tuition and fee amounts of peer institutions. Provides that "peer institutions" shall have the meaning provided by Board of Regents guidelines established as provided by existing law. Provides that the peer tuition amounts shall be weighted based upon median household income in the SREB states as provided in existing law.

Existing law provides that the authority to impose the tuition and attendance and program fee amounts provided by existing law includes the authority to impose proportional amounts for part-time students and for summer sessions.

New law makes existing law applicable to new law.

Existing law requires the board of supervisors, prior to imposing any increase in tuition or attendance fee amounts or any program fee amount authorized by existing law, to establish criteria for waivers of such amounts in cases of financial hardship. Requires that information about such waivers be made available to all prospective students so the student can be aware of the increase or fee amount and the availability of waivers thereto prior to making any final decision concerning attendance.

New law makes existing law applicable to new law.

Existing law provides that existing law authority is in addition to the authority granted to the board of supervisors by R.S. 17:3351(A)(5), 3351.1, 3351.3, and 3351.5, and Act No. 493 of the 1999 R.S. and Act No. 138 of the 1st E.S. of 2002 and in accordance with the provisions of Art. VII, §2.1(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

New law provides that new law is in addition to and independent of the authority provided in existing law and the provisions cited above in existing law and also in addition to and independent of any other provision of law including R.S. 17:3139(F) (GRAD Act). Also provides that it is in accordance with the provisions of Art. VII, §2.1(A) of the Constitution of Louisiana (which requires enactment of a law by a two-thirds vote of the elected members of each house of the legislature for a new or increased state fee).

Effective upon signature of governor (June 28, 2011).

(Adds R.S. 17:3351.11(D))