

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 167

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents to study the feasibility, practicality, and advisability of delegating tuition-setting authority to the state's public institutions that provide professional programs.

WHEREAS, traditionally, state support for public postsecondary education has far exceeded the amount charged to students in the form of tuition and fees, the harsh reality imposed by the lingering economic recession has resulted in decreased state support for the state's public postsecondary education institutions, including the professional schools; and

WHEREAS, while Louisiana's postsecondary students have historically benefitted from low tuition rates compared to their counterparts throughout the region, current enrollment patterns and economic circumstances dictate that this traditional funding paradigm be reexamined and reassessed; and

WHEREAS, the ability of postsecondary institutions, especially the professional schools, to make up the growing gap between state and student generated revenues is impacted by constitutional and statutory requirements for legislative approval of any increases in student tuition and fees; and

WHEREAS, the cost of professional programs varies widely based upon faculty requirements and the type of training required for the student to successfully enter his chosen field or to obtain professional licensure; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing national trend for states to deregulate the setting of student tuition, thereby allowing public colleges, universities, and professional schools to establish tuition rates that are responsive to market conditions and the needs of students; and

WHEREAS, it is logical to examine the process by which tuition is established for the state's public professional schools, not only in the context of the appropriate ratio of state to student support, but also considering student demand and market forces without losing sight of the need for maximum student access and affordability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents to study the feasibility, practicality, and

advisability of delegating tuition-setting authority to the state's public institutions that provide professional programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations, including any legislation which may be required to implement such recommendations, to the Senate Committee on Finance, the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the House Committee on Education, not later than March 1, 2013.

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.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE