
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Margaret M. Corley.

SB 116 Original	DIGEST 2016 Regular Session	Appel
-----------------	--------------------------------	-------

Proposed law makes technical changes to present law.

Present law requires the Board of Regents (board) to formulate and establish geographic regions of the state in order to maximize the use of the instructional and physical resources of existing state postsecondary educational institutions and regionally accredited independent postsecondary educational institutions. Further requires the board to establish the regions such that at least one public institution of higher education which awards baccalaureate degrees shall be within the geographic boundaries of, or shall be assigned by the board to, each region.

Proposed law retains these provisions.

Present law requires the board to evaluate the instructional and physical resources of existing postsecondary institutions within each region of the state, including the resources of existing higher education institutions, and assure the maximum use of these resources before recommending the creation of any new postsecondary institution within the region. Provides that the board may provide for the use within a region of existing resources from outside the region before recommending the creation of any new postsecondary institution within the region. Further provides that the evaluation be used to create efficiencies, increase student access, enhance academic quality, further the goals of the master plan for postsecondary education, and any other purpose that advances postsecondary education in each region or the state as a whole.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires the board to determine if a region is over-served or under-served by the postsecondary educational institutions within the region and consider whether any of the following would increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of public postsecondary educational services within a region:

- (1) The merger of two or more existing postsecondary institutions.
- (2) Converting a nondegree granting postsecondary institution to an institution which grants degrees.
- (3) Converting a college or university which is limited to offering degrees of a lower rank than baccalaureate to a college or university that offers baccalaureate degrees.
- (4) Converting a college or university which offers baccalaureate degrees to a college or university that is limited to offering degrees of a lower rank.

- (5) Transferring a college or university from one postsecondary management board to another.
- (6) Closure of a postsecondary educational institution.

Present law requires the board to adopt such policies and take such actions deemed appropriate and necessary to maximize the use of all resources available to support and promote postsecondary education in the state, with the exception of those matters enumerated in Article VIII, Section 5 of the Constitution of Louisiana that require legislative approval.

Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law requires the board to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate and House committees on education not later than January 30, 2017.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:3126)