

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 510

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAY MORRIS

HIGHER EDUCATION: (Constitutional Amendment) Authorizes the legislature to close or merge postsecondary education institutions under certain circumstances

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to add Article VIII, Section 5(F) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to authorize the legislature to provide for the closure or merger of public postsecondary education institutions under certain circumstances; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to add Article VIII, Section 5(F) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§5. Board of Regents

Section 5.

* * *

(F) Closure of Institutions. The legislature may by law provide for the closure or merger with another institution of any public postsecondary education institution if it determines that over any period of five consecutive years, less than twelve percent of the students who enrolled at the institution as first-time freshmen graduated from the institution within six years of initial enrollment. Any such law shall provide for the allocation of the assets and liabilities of the institution, the transfer of the students at the institution, the employment status of classified employees of the institution, the disposition of property of the institution, the

1 successor of the institution for purposes of any pending legal action, and any other
2 provision necessary for full dissolution of an institution.

3 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted
4 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 8,
5 2016.

6 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,
7 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted
8 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as
9 follows:

10 Do you support an amendment to authorize the legislature to close or merge
11 into another institution any higher education institution with low graduation
12 rates? (Adds Article VIII, Section 5(F))

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 510 Original

2016 Regular Session

Jay Morris

Abstract: Authorizes the legislature to close or merge higher education institutions with a six-year graduation rate of less than 12%.

Present constitution creates the Bd. of Regents to plan, coordinate, and have budgetary responsibility for all public postsecondary education. Grants the board specific powers including the creation of new institutions and the elimination of programs.

Proposed constitutional amendment authorizes the legislature to provide for the closure or merger with another institution of any institution that has a six-year graduation rate of less than 12% over any five consecutive year period. Provides that any such law shall provide for the allocation of the assets and liabilities, the transfer of the students, the employment status of classified employees, the disposition of property, the successor of the institution for purposes of any pending legal action, and any other provision necessary for full dissolution of an institution.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Nov. 8, 2016.

(Adds Const. Art. VIII, §5(F))