

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 499

BY REPRESENTATIVE AMEDEE

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:1807(A) and to enact R.S. 17:1807(D) through (F), relative
3 to postsecondary education; to create a fund for the purpose of funding tuition
4 exemptions and reduction in textbook costs for persons age fifty-five and older; to
5 provide that the Board of Regents shall administer the fund; to direct the state
6 treasurer to deposit certain monies into the fund; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:1807(A) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:1807(D)
9 through (F) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §1807. Persons over fifty-five; exemption from tuition; fifty percent reduction in
11 cost of textbooks; the Pursuing Rewarding, Innovative, and Meaningful
12 Education (PRIME) Fund

13 A. Any person age fifty-five years or over who registers for one or more
14 courses of instruction at a public college or university in this state and who is a
15 resident of this state shall be exempt from the payment of tuition and other
16 registration fees and shall receive a fifty percent reduction in the cost of textbooks,
17 reference books, manuals, and other aids to instruction which are required by any
18 course in which such student is enrolled when purchased from a public college or
19 university operated bookstore. This exemption shall apply regardless of the manner
20 that instruction is provided in the course, including but not limited to in-person
21 instruction, online instruction, or the combination thereof.

22 * * *

1 D.(1) There is hereby created in the state treasury, as a special fund, the
 2 Pursuing Rewarding, Innovative, and Meaningful Education (PRIME) Fund, for the
 3 purpose of the reimbursement provided for in this Section. Monies in the fund shall
 4 be invested in the same manner as monies in the general fund. Interest earned on
 5 investment of monies in the fund shall be credited to the fund. Unexpended and
 6 unencumbered monies in the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the
 7 fund.

8 (2) After allocation of money to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund as
 9 provided in Article VII, Section 9(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana, the treasurer
 10 shall deposit in and credit to the fund all monies received from grants or donations
 11 for the purposes of this Section.

12 (3) Monies in the fund shall be appropriated, administered, and used solely
 13 as provided in this Section. Disbursements from the fund shall not exceed two
 14 hundred dollars per credit hour.

15 E. The fund shall be administered by the Board of Regents.

16 F. The fund is in addition to, and separate from, any monies allocated to the
 17 institutions under the management and control of a public postsecondary education
 18 management board. The availability of the funds shall not in any way substitute,
 19 limit, or otherwise affect the allocation of funds otherwise available to those
 20 institutions under state or federal laws.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____