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## DIGEST

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HB 184 Original

2017 Regular Session

Abraham

**Abstract:** Creates the La. Jobs Now Fund and directs the treasury to annually transfer \$34 million to the fund.

Proposed law creates the La. Jobs Now Fund (the fund) for the purpose of funding degree and certificate production in high-demand fields through programs offered by La.'s public postsecondary education institutions to meet the state's current and future workforce needs.

The state treasurer is required to annually transfer \$34 million from the state general fund into the fund.

Proposed law requires monies in the fund shall be appropriated to the postsecondary education management boards to be distributed to and used by postsecondary education institutions towards degree production at public four-year universities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs and towards degree and certificate production at public two-year, community, and technical colleges in fields required for four-star or five-star jobs, as defined by the La. Workforce Commission's La. Star Jobs program or its successors.

Proposed law provides for the methodology for distribution of funds as follows:

- (1) 50% percent to public four-year universities based on each institution's prior year degree production in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs.
- (2) 50% to public two-year, community, and technical colleges based on each institution's prior year degree and certificate production in fields required for four-star or five-star jobs, as defined by the La. Workforce Commission's La. Star Jobs program or its successors.

Proposed law requires the postsecondary education management boards to provide annual reporting to certain legislative committees.

Effective July 1, 2017.

(Adds R.S. 17:3138.7)