
DIGEST

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HB 144 Reengrossed

2018 Regular Session

Abraham

Abstract: Creates the La. Jobs Now Fund and provides for deposits and uses of 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 and institutions that are members of the La. Assoc. of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU) to meet the state's current and future workforce needs.

Proposed law requires monies in the fund to be appropriated to the Board of Regents to be distributed to and used by postsecondary education institutions towards degree production at four-year universities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs and towards degree and certificate production at 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. However, prior to distribution of the funds, proposed law requires certification by the postsecondary education management boards and LAICU on behalf of the receiving institution that a match of no less than 25% of the funding is guaranteed by a private entity.

Proposed law provides for distribution of funds as follows:

- (1) 50% to four-year universities based on each institution's prior year degree production in STEM programs.
- (2) 50% to 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.

Proposed law requires the Bd. of Regents annually to submit a report to certain legislative committees. Provides that the report shall include specified information including but not limited to the final distribution amounts and the number of jobs created as a result of such distribution.

Proposed law prohibits monies from the fund supplanting any state general fund allocations provided to institutions.

Effective July 1, 2018.

(Adds R.S. 17:3138.7)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Add institutions that are members of LAICU as eligible to receive and use monies in the La. Jobs Now Fund.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide that appropriations shall be to the Board of Regents for distribution to the postsecondary education boards and members of the LAICU rather than directly to the boards and LAICU members.
2. Add the commissioner of higher education to individuals reviewing and approving the distribution method.
3. Change "distribution methodology" to "distribution method".