

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS****HB 144****2018 Regular Session****Abraham**

**FUNDS/FUNDING:** Creates the Louisiana Jobs Now Fund for the purpose of funding postsecondary education degree and certificate production in high-demand fields

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Remove institutions that are members of La. Assoc. of Independent Colleges and Universities as eligible to receive and use monies in the La. Jobs Now Fund.
2. Add the LSU Health Sciences Centers in New Orleans and Shreveport and the LSU Health Sciences Center school of nursing as eligible to receive and use monies in the La. Jobs Now Fund.
3. Remove option for the management board, under certain circumstances, to waive the requirement for matching funds from a private entity.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

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 the LSU Health Sciences Centers in New Orleans and Shreveport and the LSU Health Sciences Center school of nursing to meet the state's current and future workforce needs.

Proposed law requires monies in the fund to be appropriated to the Bd. of Regents to be distributed to and used by institutions towards degree production at four-year universities and the health programs 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 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 and the health programs 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)