

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 36 (SB 32)

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Fields

Prior law provided for the Louisiana Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas Act (GRAD Act). The GRAD Act provided public postsecondary institutions that achieve specific, measurable performance objectives aimed at improving college completion and at meeting the state's current and future workforce and economic development needs be granted limited tuition and operational autonomy for achieving such objectives. Prior law further provided that a public postsecondary education institution with clean financial audit findings may exercise certain operational autonomies until July 1, 2020, if the institution's management board approves the exercise of autonomies by any institution in the system.

Prior law provided for the following operational autonomies:

- (1) Authority to retain funds unexpended and unobligated at the end of the fiscal year for use at the institution's discretion.
- (2) Authority to identify and dispose of obsolete equipment.
- (3) Authority to be excluded by the division of administration from any table of organization.
- (4) Authority to participate in the higher education procurement code as established by Louisiana State University and approved by the division of administration.
- (5) Exemption from participation in the state's risk management program pursuant to certain conditions.
- (6) Authority to administer facilities projects funded with self-generated revenue, federal funds, donations, grants, or revenue bonds.
- (7) Authority to invest certain funds in certain bonds.

New law recodifies the authority for operational autonomies and removes the "sunset" date for such authority.

New law expands the autonomy to use unexpended and unobligated funds of the fiscal year for use at the institution's discretion. Requires that no later than October first of each year each management board is to report to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget the amount of unexpended and unobligated funds retained by each institution by means of finance from the prior fiscal year.

New law authorizes cooperative procurement under the higher education procurement code for institutions within a system.

Effective upon signature of the governor (October 28, 2020).

(Adds R.S. 17:3393)