

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 682 (SB 192)

2022 Regular Session

Boudreaux

New law provides for the creation of the Louisiana Postsecondary Inclusive Education Fund for the purpose of funding approved comprehensive inclusive postsecondary programs at each public postsecondary education institution in order to provide pathways to postsecondary degree, certificate, and apprenticeship programs designed to increase independent living and employment opportunities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

New law defines an approved inclusive education program as a federally approved comprehensive transition and postsecondary program offered at a Louisiana public postsecondary institution.

New law provides that any money donated to the fund or appropriated to the fund by the legislature shall be:

- (1) Deposited in the fund.
- (2) Invested in the same manner as monies in the general fund. Interest earned on investment of monies in the fund shall be credited to the fund.
- (3) Appropriated to the Board of Regents for distribution to public postsecondary institutions meeting certain requirements, to be used only for:
 - (a) The creation, operation, and expansion of inclusive programs.
 - (b) Technical assistance in creating or expanding inclusive programs.
 - (c) Dissemination of information on each inclusive program in Louisiana.

New law provides that money from the fund is in addition to, and separate from, other monies appropriated or allocated to any public postsecondary education management board. Allocations from the fund shall not be included in the Board of Regents' funding formula calculation, nor shall they supplant any state general fund allocations to institutions. The availability of the fund shall not in any way substitute, limit, or otherwise affect the allocation of any funds otherwise available to those institutions under state or federal laws.

New law creates the Postsecondary Inclusive Education Advisory Council under the auspices of the Board of Regents for the purpose of advising the board with respect to inclusive programs and methods to fund and expand inclusive programs in the state. Provides for council membership. Requires any member selecting a designee to select a person from his respective system, agency, office, or association who has expertise in transitional postsecondary educational services.

New law requires the commissioner of higher education to convene the first meeting no later than September 1, 2022.

New law requires the Board of Regents, with assistance from the council, to provide an annual report to the Senate committees on education and finance, the House committees on education and appropriations and to post the report on the board's website. Requires the report to include a detailed accounting of the fund, information for each program receiving a distribution from the fund, details on each technical assistance grant provided from the fund, and any recommendations for additional money for the fund.

New law requires each public postsecondary education management board to report to the Board of Regents the information necessary for the Board of Regents to complete the report.

Effective June 18, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 17:3138.10 and R.S. 36:651(K)(10))