

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 258

BY REPRESENTATIVES WRIGHT, AMEDEE, BRASS, FREIBERG, PHELPS, ST. BLANC, AND TARVER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

HIGHER EDUCATION: Establishes a state maritime academy within the University of Louisiana System

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3217, relative to the University of Louisiana System; to
3 establish a state maritime academy under the supervision and management of the
4 system's board of supervisors; to provide for the purposes and programs of the
5 academy; to provide for the hiring of an executive director; to authorize the
6 executive director to establish an advisory board; to provide relative to federal
7 funding; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:3217 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10 §3217. University of Louisiana System

11 A. The University of Louisiana System is composed of the institutions under
12 the supervision and management of the Board of Supervisors for the University of
13 Louisiana System, referred to in this Section as the board of supervisors or the board,
14 as follows:

- 15 (1) Grambling State University at Grambling.
- 16 (2) Louisiana Tech University at Ruston.
- 17 (3) McNeese State University at Lake Charles.
- 18 (4) Nicholls State University at Thibodaux.

- 1 (5) Northwestern State University of Louisiana at Natchitoches.
- 2 (6) Southeastern Louisiana University at Hammond.
- 3 (7) The University of Louisiana at Lafayette.
- 4 (8) The University of Louisiana at Monroe.
- 5 (9) The University of New Orleans.
- 6 (10) Any other college, university, school, institution or program now or
- 7 hereafter under the supervision and management of the ~~Board of Supervisors for the~~
- 8 ~~University of Louisiana System.~~ board of supervisors.

9 B.(1) A state maritime academy, the Universities of Louisiana Maritime

10 Academy, is hereby established for the purposes of leveraging and coordinating

11 existing maritime programs and facilities, providing for the training of merchant

12 marine officers, and providing for additional educational pathways aligned with the

13 workforce needs of the maritime industry.

14 (2) Subject to the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Board of

15 Regents under Article VIII, Section 5(D) of the Constitution of Louisiana,

16 specifically the authority to approve, disapprove, or modify a proposed degree

17 program, department of instruction, division, or similar subdivision, the academy

18 shall be under the supervision and management of the board of supervisors and shall

19 be headed by an executive director hired by the system president.

20 (3) The training programs offered through the academy may operate across

21 multiple institutions within the system. The programs shall be developed in a

22 manner that makes maximum use of existing state and local resources, including

23 programs, facilities, and faculty, through cooperative service agreements and

24 contracts with other public education institutions' maritime programs such as those

25 housed in the Louisiana Community Technical College System and elementary and

26 secondary training programs recognized by the Maritime Administration of the

27 United States Department of Transportation.

28 (4) The board of supervisors is the designated legal state entity to qualify the

29 academy and its training programs for federal assistance and to receive and expend

- 1 funds under the provisions of the Maritime Academy Act of 1958 (P.L. 85-672) and
 2 any applicable rules, regulations, and laws.
- 3 (5) The executive director of the academy may establish an advisory board
 4 for the purpose of making recommendations relative to the establishment and
 5 operations of the academy.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 258 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Wright

Abstract: Establishes a state maritime academy within the University of La. System.

Present law provides for the University of La. System, composed of the postsecondary education institutions under the supervision and management of the system's board of supervisors.

Proposed law:

- (1) Establishes, subject to the constitutional powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Bd. of Regents, a state maritime academy under the supervision and management of the board of supervisors for the following purposes:
 - (a) Coordinating existing maritime programs and facilities.
 - (b) Training merchant marine officers.
 - (c) Providing additional educational pathways aligned with the workforce needs of the maritime industry.
- (2) Provides for the system president to hire an executive director, who may establish an advisory board for the purpose of making recommendations relative to the academy's establishment and operations.
- (3) Provides that the academy's training programs:
 - (a) May operate across multiple institutions under the supervision of the board.
 - (b) Shall be developed in a manner that makes maximum use of existing state and local resources through agreements and contracts with other institutions and training programs.

Proposed law provides that the board of supervisors is the designated legal state entity to qualify the academy and its training programs for federal assistance and to receive and expend funds under federal law.

(Amends R.S. 17:3217)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Add that establishment of maritime academy is subject to the constitutional powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Bd. of Regents.