

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 77

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates April 28, 2025, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Day at the state capitol

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To designate Monday, April 28, 2025, as Historically Black Colleges and Universities  
3 (HBCU) Day at the state capitol.

4 WHEREAS, Louisiana is proud to be home to eight Historically Black Colleges and  
5 Universities: Dillard University, Grambling State University, Southern University and A&M  
6 College, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Southern  
7 University Law Center, Southern University at New Orleans, Southern University  
8 Shreveport, and Xavier University of Louisiana; and

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana is also home to the nation's only HBCU System, the Southern  
10 University System, comprising five campuses that serve as pillars of higher learning and  
11 community engagement: Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Southern  
12 University at New Orleans, Southern University Shreveport, the Southern University  
13 Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Baton Rouge, and the Southern University  
14 Law Center in Baton Rouge; and

15 WHEREAS, the first HBCU was established one hundred eighty-nine years ago, and  
16 HBCUs continue to build a legacy of excellence, achievement, and inclusion in the United  
17 States; and

18 WHEREAS, HBCUs work diligently to promote their institutions' rich histories and  
19 continue to create new pathways towards educational excellence, and they play a crucial role  
20 in contributing to the economy and workforce, aligning their academic programs with the  
21 needs of industry while ensuring HBCU graduates meet the demands of the job market; and

1           WHEREAS, HBCU graduates are exemplary public servants, scientists, doctors,  
2 artists, lawyers, judges, engineers, educators, entertainers, business owners, and leaders and  
3 have distinguished themselves in numerous ways, both nationally and in the state; and

4           WHEREAS, Dillard University fuels the state and regional economy by producing  
5 leaders in healthcare, STEM, education, business, and the arts, many of whom remain in  
6 Louisiana to work and serve in their communities; the school is recognized for its 98%  
7 medical school acceptance rate among pre-med graduates, which is one of the highest in the  
8 country; and it is home to the Ray Charles Program in African American Material Culture  
9 and the Institute of Jazz and Cultural Arts, amplifying its role as a steward of Black cultural  
10 preservation; and

11           WHEREAS, Grambling State University has nearly one hundred twenty-five years  
12 of excellence in action and continues to lead through innovation and impact; the school  
13 established Louisiana's first Ph.D. program in Criminology and Justice Administration,  
14 became the first and only HBCU with a campus-based Digital Library, earned recognition  
15 as a CASE Standards Contributor, ranked among the Top 20 HBCUs in the nation and as the  
16 Best in Louisiana for economic and social mobility, and achieved record-breaking growth  
17 in alumni giving, corporate partnerships, investor retention, endowed scholarships, and  
18 student scholarship awards; and

19           WHEREAS, Southern University and A&M College is celebrating one hundred  
20 forty-five years of service and is the flagship of the System as the leading producer of Black  
21 graduates in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); the school boasts  
22 the top-ranked nursing program in the nation, according to Nurse.org; and

23           WHEREAS, Southern University at New Orleans plays a critical role in expanding  
24 access to higher education in the Greater New Orleans area, most notably through the  
25 graduation of its first cohort of nursing students, the planned groundbreaking of a new  
26 state-of-the-art nursing building, and its new data science degree program; the school also  
27 reestablished its evening and weekend college to better provide for the adult learners it  
28 proudly serves; and

29           WHEREAS, Southern University Shreveport has established the Aerospace  
30 Technology Center as the region's premier training hub for aviation technicians, addressing

1 a critical industry need through a program uniquely positioned to prepare students for  
2 high-wage careers; the school operates a Mobile Health Unit that delivers critical  
3 preventative care, screenings, and dental services to underserved communities across  
4 northwest Louisiana while providing allied health and nursing students with hands-on  
5 clinical training; and

6 WHEREAS, Southern University Law Center (SULC) has developed an Heirs'  
7 Property Certificate Program to equip participants with the basic knowledge needed to  
8 maintain ownership of land that has been passed down through generations and since 2017  
9 has had thirteen of its brightest, most service-oriented SULC students consistently honored  
10 by the White House as HBCU Scholars; and

11 WHEREAS, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center  
12 (SUAREC) has partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture to establish the  
13 first USDA Agricultural Science Center of Excellence for Nutrition and Diet (ASCEND)  
14 Nutrition Hub; under the leadership of Chancellor-Dean Dr. Orlando F. McMeans, Precision  
15 "Agcademy" Drone Certification Program has engaged nearly two hundred Louisiana  
16 students in drone operations; SUAREC produces Southern University Natural (SUN) Beef,  
17 and SUAREC celebrated its 82nd Annual State Livestock and Poultry Show this year; and

18 WHEREAS, Xavier University of Louisiana celebrates a century of excellence and  
19 is a national leader in producing African American Doctor of Pharmacy graduates and Black  
20 students who complete medical school, leading to 10.1% of first-year medical students in  
21 Louisiana identifying as Black or African American; the school is developing the Xavier  
22 Ochsner College of Medicine in partnership with Ochsner Health, which is set to become  
23 the fifth historically Black medical school in U.S. history and the only one in the Gulf South;  
24 throughout its history, Xavier has accomplished academic achievements and community  
25 impact that remain a source of pride, and the school contributes significantly to the cultural  
26 and economic vitality of New Orleans by generating jobs, attracting investment, and fueling  
27 innovation in the region; and

28 WHEREAS, it is most fitting to commend Louisiana's Historically Black Colleges  
29 and Universities for their outstanding achievements and their numerous alumni for their  
30 contributions to their local communities, the state, and the world.

1           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
2   Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Monday, April 28, 2025, as Historically  
3   Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Day at the state capitol and does hereby recognize  
4   the contributions of HBCUs throughout the state and the country.

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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)]

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