

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 171

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

POSTSECONDARY ED. Requests the Board of Regents to study the feasibility of creating charter colleges and universities.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Board of Regents to study and determine the feasibility of
3 developing a plan for designating public postsecondary education institutions as
4 charter colleges or universities.

5 WHEREAS, the state recognizes that postsecondary education and long-term
6 economic strength and viability are inextricably linked, and consequently looks to and
7 depends upon our public colleges and universities to drive economic development by
8 demonstrating leadership in research, innovation, commercialization, and technology
9 transfer; and

10 WHEREAS, in times of budgetary constraints, it is incumbent upon the state to
11 explore all avenues that will enable our public colleges and universities to be more
12 productive and provide students with effective, high quality postsecondary education and
13 training with less public money; and

14 WHEREAS, we should also consider mechanisms which would afford our public
15 colleges and universities increased authority and decision making in managing their finances
16 and operations, while still maintaining optimal state oversight and appropriate performance
17 and accountability standards; and

18 WHEREAS, based upon the premise that restructuring the relationship between state

1 government and public postsecondary education will drive innovation and enable eligible
2 public colleges and universities to reinvent themselves in a manner that will allow them to
3 become more responsive, accessible, and sustainable, a number of states, including Ohio,
4 are implementing a charter model for their public institutions of postsecondary education.

5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
6 does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents to study and determine the feasibility of
7 developing a plan for designating public postsecondary education institutions as charter
8 colleges or universities.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting such study, the Board of Regents
10 shall:

- 11 (1) Study the administrative and financial relationships between the state and
12 public institutions of postsecondary education to determine the extent to
13 which public colleges and universities can manage their operations more
14 effectively and more efficiently if allowed increased flexibility in managing
15 their finances and operations.
- 16 (2) Examine the statutory, policy, administrative, and other legal issues related
17 to the feasibility and practicability of the restructuring of the traditional
18 administrative and financial relationships between the state and our public
19 institutions of postsecondary education that would be required to facilitate
20 the designation of a public postsecondary institution as a charter college or
21 university.
- 22 (3) Fully engage the public postsecondary education management boards, the
23 presidents of the public colleges and universities, and the division of
24 administration in all facets of the study.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall submit a written
26 report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education, the
27 House Committee on Education, and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget not later
28 than February 1, 2014.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
30 chairman of the Board of Regents, the commissioner of higher education, and the chairman

1 of each of the public postsecondary education management boards.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

Walsworth

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