

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 171

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, based upon the premise that restructuring the relationship between state government and public postsecondary education will drive innovation and enable eligible public colleges and universities to reinvent themselves in a manner that will allow them to become more responsive, accessible, and sustainable, a number of states, including Ohio, are implementing a charter model for their public institutions of postsecondary education.

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Regents, the commissioner of higher education, and the chairman of each of the public postsecondary education management boards.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE