

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 561

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Provides relative to tuition waivers in cases of financial hardship for nonresident students

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3139.2(4)(c), relative to postsecondary education
3 management boards; to provide relative to powers, duties, and functions; to provide
4 with respect to the waiving of nonresident tuition or mandatory fee increases in cases
5 of financial hardship; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:3139.2(4)(c) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8 §3139.2. Performance agreements; objectives

9 Effective beginning with the 2011 Fiscal Year, any public postsecondary
10 education institution, including professional schools, may enter into an initial
11 performance agreement with the Board of Regents in order to be granted limited
12 operational autonomy and flexibility as provided in R.S. 17:3139.5 in exchange for
13 committing to meet established targets for the following performance objectives as
14 applicable to the institution as determined by the Board of Regents:

15 * * *

16 (4) Institutional efficiency and accountability.

17 * * *

18 (c) Upon entering the initial performance agreement, adhere to a schedule
19 established by the institution's management board to increase nonresident tuition
20 amounts that are not less than the average tuition amount charged to Louisiana

1 residents attending peer institutions in other Southern Regional Education Board
 2 states and monitor the impact of such increases on the institution. However, for each
 3 public historically black college or university, the nonresident tuition amounts shall
 4 not be less than the average tuition amount charged to Louisiana residents attending
 5 public historically black colleges and universities in other Southern Regional
 6 Education Board states. Each postsecondary education management board shall
 7 establish criteria for waiving any nonresident tuition or mandatory fee increase as
 8 authorized in this Section in cases of financial hardship. Information relative to such
 9 waivers and the criteria and procedures for obtaining a waiver shall be made
 10 available to all prospective students in a timely manner such that each student is
 11 informed of the availability of a waiver prior to the student making a final decision
 12 concerning attendance at any public institution of postsecondary education.
 13 * * *

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)]

Jefferson

HB No. 561

Abstract: Provides with respect to the waiving of nonresident tuition or mandatory fee increases in cases of financial hardship.

Present law provides with respect to the general powers, duties, and functions of postsecondary education management boards.

Present law provides that any public postsecondary education institution may enter into an initial performance agreement with the Board of Regents in order to be granted limited operational autonomy and tuition flexibility as provided in present law (R.S. 17:3139.5) in exchange for committing to meet established targets for certain performance objectives.

Present law provides that one such objective is institutional efficiency and accountability. Meeting such an objective requires adherence to a schedule established by the institution's management board to increase nonresident tuition amounts that are not less than the average tuition amount charged to La. residents attending peer institutions in other Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) states and monitor the impact of such increases on the institution. Further provides that, for each public historically black college, the nonresident tuition amounts shall not be less than the average tuition amount charged to La. residents attending public historically black colleges in other SREB states.

Proposed law provides that each postsecondary education management board shall establish criteria for waiving any nonresident tuition or mandatory fee increase as authorized in present law in cases of financial hardship. Further requires that information relative to such

waivers and the criteria and procedures for obtaining a waiver be made available to all prospective students in a timely manner such that each student is informed of the availability of a waiver prior to making a final decision concerning attendance at any public institution of postsecondary education. Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:3139.2(4)(c))