

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY REPRESENTATIVE DIXON

STUDENT/TUITION: Requests that the Board of Regents study the feasibility of implementing a college tuition program that would allow students to pay tuition after leaving college

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Board of Regents, in consultation with the Board of Supervisors of
3 Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of
4 Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, the Board of Supervisors of
5 Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the Board of
6 Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges, to study the feasibility of
7 implementing a college tuition program that would allow students to pay tuition after
8 leaving college and to submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including
9 any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee
10 on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior
11 to the beginning of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

12 WHEREAS, good jobs increasingly require workers with postsecondary education,
13 and the nation's economic growth depends on developing a workforce ready for 21st century
14 jobs in the global economy; and

15 WHEREAS, long-term declines in state higher education funding and more recent
16 severe budget cuts are pushing college out of reach for middle class and low-income
17 students; and

18 WHEREAS, "Pay It Forward", a proposal from the Economic Opportunity Institute,
19 provides a potential remedy to this problem; and

20 WHEREAS, under the "Pay It Forward" plan, students attend college with no upfront
21 tuition and fees, and instead contribute a small, fixed-percentage of their income after
22 college; and

1 WHEREAS, under the plan, contributions are placed in a public higher education
2 trust fund that funds education for the next generation of students, giving each new cohort
3 the same opportunity to attend college; and

4 WHEREAS, over time, the trust fund becomes entirely self-replenishing and allows
5 for more and more students to participate in the plan, and by linking contributions to
6 students' incomes, the plan allows graduates to choose work based on their interests and
7 skills, rather than solely on the prospect of higher incomes; and

8 WHEREAS, "Pay It Forward" can be implemented in conjunction with other forms
9 of federal, state, local, and private financial aid; and

10 WHEREAS, several states are exploring "Pay It Forward" programs, including
11 Oregon, where lawmakers recently voted to create a commission to study the plan in detail.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
13 urge and request the Board of Regents, in consultation with the Board of Supervisors of
14 Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of
15 Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, the Board of Supervisors of Southern
16 University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the Board of Supervisors of
17 Louisiana Community and Technical Colleges, to study the feasibility of implementing a
18 college tuition program that would allow students to pay tuition after leaving college and to
19 submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for
20 legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate
21 Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2015 Regular
22 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
24 to the commissioner of higher education and the presidents of Louisiana State University,
25 University of Louisiana, Southern University, and the Louisiana Community and Technical
26 College systems.

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)]

Dixon

HCR No. 21

Requests that the Board of Regents study, in consultation with the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the University of Louisiana System, Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the Community and Technical College system, the feasibility of implementing a college tuition program that would allow students to pay tuition after leaving college and submit a written report of findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the House and Senate education committees at least 60 days prior to the 2015 R.S.