

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY REPRESENTATIVE DIXON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE