

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 411

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

COLLEGES/ADMISSIONS: (Constitutional Amendment) Provides relative to the authority to set admission standards at public postsecondary education institutions

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A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article VIII, Section 5(D)(4) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to provide relative to the authority to set admission standards at public postsecondary education institutions; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article VIII, Section 5(D)(4) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§5. Board of Regents

Section 5.

\* \* \*

(D) Powers. The Board of Regents shall meet with the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education at least twice a year to coordinate programs of public elementary, secondary, vocational-technical, career, and higher education. The Board of Regents shall have the following powers, duties, and responsibilities relating to public institutions of postsecondary education:

\* \* \*

(4) To formulate and make timely revision of a master plan for postsecondary education. As a minimum, the plan shall include a formula for

1 equitable distribution of funds to the institutions of postsecondary education.  
 2 However, the master plan shall not require and the formula shall not make the  
 3 distribution of funds contingent on use of specific student admission standards. The  
 4 authority to set admission standards for an institution is specifically a power of  
 5 management as provided for in Paragraph (E) of this Section.

6 \* \* \*

7 Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted  
 8 to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on October 24,  
 9 2015.

10 Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election,  
 11 there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted  
 12 to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as  
 13 follows:

14 Do you support an amendment to provide that the higher education  
 15 management boards, rather than the Board of Regents, have control over  
 16 student admission standards at public colleges and universities? (Amends  
 17 Article VIII, Section 5(D)(4))

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#### 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)]

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HB 411 Original

2015 Regular Session

James

**Abstract:** Provides that the postsecondary education management boards, rather than the Bd. of Regents, control student admission standards at public colleges and universities.

Present constitution creates the Bd. of Regents to plan, coordinate, and have budgetary responsibility for all public postsecondary education. Specifically requires the board to formulate a master plan which is to include a formula for equitable distribution of funds to colleges and universities. Proposed constitutional amendments provides that the master plan shall not require nor shall the formula make the distribution of funds contingent on use of specific student admission standards.

Present constitution provides that powers of management over public colleges and universities not specifically vested in the Bd. of Regents are reserved to the management boards. Proposed constitutional amendment provides that the authority to set admission standards is a power reserved to the management boards.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held October 24, 2015.

(Amends Const. Art. VIII, §5(D)(4))