

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 619 (SB 446)

2016 Regular Session

Hewitt

Present constitution provides for the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Bd. of Regents, including the requirement that it formulate and make timely revision of a master plan for postsecondary education. Requires that, as a minimum, such plan include a formula for equitable distribution of funds to postsecondary education institutions. Also requires the board to submit its budget recommendations for postsecondary education institutions and recommend priorities for capital construction and improvements.

Prior law required the board to establish a mission for each public postsecondary education system and each institution within each system and requires that each such mission statement:

- (1) Be included in and form the basis of the master plan.
- (2) Include a description of the following:
 - (a) The intended role and scope of each system and institution.
 - (b) Its public service contribution.
 - (c) Its academic and research goals.
 - (d) Its contribution toward, and proper role in, the collective goals of public postsecondary education of diversity, access, and excellence.

New law requires the Bd. of Regents to conduct a comprehensive review of the state's present postsecondary education system and recommend the optimal delivery of postsecondary education in the future that will meet the needs of the state's citizens and industries while maximizing the state's resources. Provides that the review shall be of the state as a whole and of its workforce development areas ("regions"). Requires the board to provide a report on findings and recommendations to the House and Senate committees on education not later than 45 days prior to the start of the 2017 R.S. Requires that the report include the following:

- (1) A description of assets, including:
 - (a) The role, scope, and mission of each public postsecondary education institution.
 - (b) Academic and nonacademic programs excluding continuing education courses but including program enrollment and completion data for the last five years and academic discipline cost per full-time equivalent student for current year.
 - (c) Current centers of excellence.
 - (d) A list of each facility and all immovable property owned or leased by the state's public postsecondary institutions, including a description of each facility containing specified information.
 - (e) Certain institutional data.
- (2) A description of needs to meet educational demand. Provides that educational demand shall be determined according to specified considerations.
- (3) A description of gaps (needs that exceed assets or assets that exceed needs).
- (4) Recommendations on how to close such gaps, including whether certain actions are needed and anticipated savings or costs associated with each.
- (5) A description of barriers.

- (6) An executive summary of recommendations to ensure the state's public postsecondary education system is operating in a manner that best meets the educational demand of the state and each region.

New law requires the Dept. of Economic Development, the La. Workforce Commission, and each public postsecondary institution, management board, and system to fully cooperate with Regents and provide data and assistance as requested.

New law is effective upon signature of the governor (June 17, 2016) except that repeal of prior law is repealed on July 1, 2017.

(Adds R.S. 17:3140; repeals R.S. 17:3140)