
DIGEST

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HB 528 Engrossed

2017 Regular Session

Broadwater

Abstract: Creates and provides for the Louisiana Postsecondary Education Board of Trustees as the successor of the Board of Regents.

Creation and Membership

Proposed law creates and provides for the Louisiana Postsecondary Education Board of Trustees, which shall have seven members – the president of each public postsecondary education system, one member appointed by the governor, subject to Senate confirmation, one member appointed by the La. House of Representatives, and one member appointed by the La. Senate. Provides that the member appointed by the governor shall serve as chairman.

Powers

Proposed law grants to the Board of Trustees certain powers that present constitution and present law grant to the Board of Regents, including the following:

- (1) To formulate and make timely revision of a master plan for postsecondary education, which shall, at minimum, shall include a formula for equitable distribution of funds to the institutions of postsecondary education.
- (2) To require that the management boards submit to it an annual budget proposal for operational and capital needs and capital needs of each institution under its control; to submit its budget recommendations for all institutions; and to recommend priorities for capital construction and improvements.

Proposed law further provides relative to the powers of the Board of Trustees as follows:

- (1) Provides that approval of the funding formula shall require a vote of five members of the board and requires the board to select and contract with an independent CPA to provide an audit of the data used in the formula's development and implementation. Requires the board to pay for the audit and annually report, not later than March 15th, on the formula to the House and Senate education committees.
- (2) Grants the board the power to ensure that each public postsecondary education management board is fulfilling its system's mission and collaborating with the other management boards to achieve accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness in public postsecondary education.

Transitional Provisions

Proposed law requires the governor, the House of Representatives, and the Senate to make initial appointments not later than Jan. 1, 2018, and the chairman to convene the Board of Trustees for its first meeting not later than Jan. 15, 2018. Requires the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents, prior to July 1, 2019, to take such actions as are necessary to provide for the implementation of the Board of Trustees on that date. Requires the Board of Trustees to develop a transition plan that shall, as a minimum, provide for the following:

- (1) Recommendations relative to which staff positions and functions of the Board of Regents should be retained, eliminated, or transferred to the management boards or some other entity.
- (2) The development of a budget proposal for the Board of Trustees.
- (3) An evaluation of the strengths and weakness of the outcomes-based funding formula and recommendations for improving the formula to ensure the equitable allocation of state funds.
- (4) Recommendations for legislation, if any, needed to effectuate a successful transition.

Proposed law also requires the Board of Trustees, not later than 30 days prior to the beginning of the 2018 R.S. and quarterly thereafter, to submit to each member of the legislature and the governor a report containing findings and recommendations relative to the requirements of the transition plan provided in proposed law.

Effective if and when the proposed amendment of the Constitution of La. contained in the Act which originated as House Bill No. 342 of this 2017 R.S. is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective (July 1, 2019), except that if such amendment is adopted, the transitional provisions shall become effective Dec. 1, 2017.

(Adds R.S. 17:1891-1894)