

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 144

BY REPRESENTATIVE ABRAHAM

FUNDS/FUNDING: Creates the Louisiana Jobs Now Fund for the purpose of funding postsecondary education degree and certificate production in high-demand fields

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3138.7, relative to special treasury funds; to establish the Louisiana Jobs  
3 Now Fund as a special fund in the state treasury; to provide for deposits into the  
4 fund; to provide for uses of the fund; to provide for certain limitations; to require  
5 certain reports; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:3138.7 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §3138.7. Louisiana Jobs Now Fund

9 A.(1) The Louisiana Jobs Now Fund, hereinafter referred to in this Section  
10 as the "fund", is hereby created within the state treasury as a special fund for the  
11 purpose of funding degree and certificate production in high-demand fields through  
12 programs offered by Louisiana's public postsecondary education institutions to meet  
13 the state's current and future workforce needs.

14 (2) Any money donated to the fund or appropriated to the fund by the  
15 legislature shall be deposited in the fund. Monies in the fund shall be invested in the  
16 same manner as monies in the general fund. Interest earned on investment of monies  
17 in the fund shall be credited to the fund. Unexpended and unencumbered monies in  
18 the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the fund.

19 B.(1) Monies in the fund shall be appropriated to the postsecondary  
20 education management boards to be distributed to and used by postsecondary

1 education institutions in accordance with the distribution methodology to be  
2 developed as provided for in this Section.

3 (2) The funds distributed pursuant to this Section shall be used by the  
4 institution towards degree production at public four-year universities in science,  
5 technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs and towards degree and  
6 certificate production at public two-year, community, and technical colleges in fields  
7 required for four-star or five-star jobs, as defined by the Louisiana Workforce  
8 Commission's Louisiana Star Jobs program or its successors.

9 (3) Any funds distributed to an institution that remains unexpended or  
10 unobligated at the end of the fiscal year shall be available for use in the subsequent  
11 fiscal year by an institution pursuant to their implementation plan.

12 (4)(a) Funding shall be distributed by the postsecondary education  
13 management boards only upon the certification by the postsecondary education  
14 management board on behalf of the receiving public postsecondary education  
15 institution that a match of no less than twenty-five percent of the amount of funding  
16 to be distributed has been guaranteed by a private entity. The certification shall  
17 detail the type of private match to be provided, which may include, but is not limited  
18 to: cash; in-kind donations of technology, personnel, construction materials, facility  
19 modification, or tangible property; internships; scholarships; sponsorship of staff  
20 or faculty; or faculty endowment.

21 (b) In any fiscal year that the total appropriated funds from the sum of the  
22 state general fund and dedicated funds for higher education are below the  
23 appropriated funding in the prior fiscal year, the postsecondary education  
24 management boards may, at their discretion, delay or waive requirements as set forth  
25 in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph.

26 C. The methodology for distribution of funds shall be as follows:

27 (1) Fifty percent of funds shall be distributed to public four-year universities  
28 based on each institution's prior year degree production in science, technology,  
29 engineering, and math (STEM) programs.

1           (2) Fifty percent of funds shall be distributed to public two-year, community,  
2           and technical colleges based on each institution's prior year degree and certificate  
3           production in fields required for four-star or five-star jobs, as defined by the  
4           Louisiana Workforce Commission's Louisiana Star Jobs program or its successors.

5           (3) The four postsecondary education system presidents shall annually  
6           review and approve the distribution methodology, the list of degree and certificate  
7           programs upon which the distribution is based, and the final distribution amounts.

8           D. The Board of Regents shall provide annual reporting to the Senate  
9           Committee on Education, Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee on  
10           Education, and the House Committee on Appropriations. The report shall include  
11           the distribution methodology, the list of degree and certificate programs upon which  
12           the distribution is based, the final distribution amounts, the number of jobs created  
13           as a result of the distribution, and the methodology and data used to determine the  
14           reported number of jobs created. The postsecondary education management boards  
15           shall report to the Board of Regents the information necessary for the Board of  
16           Regents to satisfy the requirements of this Subsection.

17           E. The fund is in addition to, and separate from, any monies appropriated or  
18           allocated to any postsecondary education management board. Allocations from this  
19           fund shall not be included in the Board of Regents' funding formula calculation, nor  
20           shall it supplant any state general fund allocations provided to institutions. The  
21           availability of the fund shall not in any way substitute, limit, or otherwise affect the  
22           allocation of any funds otherwise available to those institutions under state or federal  
23           laws.

24           Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2018; if vetoed by the governor  
25           and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,  
26           2018, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

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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 144 Original

2018 Regular Session

Abraham

**Abstract:** Creates the La. Jobs Now Fund and provides for deposits and uses of the fund.

Proposed law creates the La. Jobs Now Fund (the fund) for the purpose of funding degree and certificate production in high-demand fields through programs offered by La.'s public postsecondary education institutions to meet the state's current and future workforce needs.

Proposed law requires monies in the fund to be appropriated to the postsecondary education management boards to be distributed to and used by postsecondary education institutions towards degree production at public four-year universities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs and towards degree and certificate production at public two-year, community, and technical colleges in fields required for four-star or five-star jobs, as defined by the La. Workforce Commission's La. Star Jobs program or its successors. However, prior to distribution of the funds, proposed law requires certification by the receiving institution that a match of no less than 25% of the funding is guaranteed by a private entity.

Proposed law provides for the methodology for distribution of funds as follows:

- (1) 50% to public four-year universities based on each institution's prior year degree production in STEM programs.
- (2) 50% to public two-year, community, and technical colleges based on each institution's prior year degree and certificate production in fields required for four-star or five-star jobs.

Proposed law requires the Board of Regents to provide annual reporting to certain legislative committees. Proposed law further provides for the report to contain information such as final distribution amounts and the number of jobs created.

Proposed law prohibits monies from the fund supplanting any state general fund allocations provided to institutions.

Effective July 1, 2018.

(Adds R.S. 17:3138.7)