

2018 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 199

BY SENATOR BISHOP

POSTSECONDARY ED. Creates the Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3138.7 and R.S. 36:651(T)(7), relative to postsecondary education; to
3 establish the Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities under
4 the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents; to provide relative to the membership,
5 powers, duties, and functions of the council; 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. Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

9 **A. The Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities**
10 **(HBCUs) is hereby established under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents.**
11 **In consultation with the Southern University System and Grambling State**
12 **University, the council shall provide guidance and advice to the commissioner**
13 **of higher education and the Board of Regents regarding best practices to**
14 **strengthen the capacity of Louisiana's public HBCUs.**

15 **B. The council shall be composed of 19 members as follows:**

16 **(1) The commissioner of higher education, or his designee.**

17 **(2) The president of the Southern University System, or his designee.**

1 (3) The president of the University of Louisiana System, or his designee.

2 (4) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College
3 System, or his designee.

4 (5) The chancellor of Southern University and Agricultural and
5 Mechanical College at Baton Rouge, or his designee.

6 (6) The chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans, or his
7 designee.

8 (7) The chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport, or his designee.

9 (8) The chancellor of the Southern University Law Center, or his
10 designee.

11 (9) The chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Research and
12 Extension Center, or his designee.

13 (10) The president of Grambling State University, or his designee.

14 (11) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
15 Education, or his designee.

16 (12) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or his
17 designee.

18 (13) The executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or
19 his designee.

20 (14) The president of the Louisiana State Conference of the National
21 Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or his designee.

22 (15) The president of the Urban League of Louisiana, or his designee.

23 (16) The president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana,
24 or his designee.

25 (17) The president of the Senate, or his designee.

26 (18) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.

27 (19) The chairman of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, or his
28 designee.

29 C. Members of the council shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing

1 authority and vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the original
2 appointment.

3 D. Members shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed
4 for expenses as provided by the appointing authority.

5 E.(1) The commissioner of higher education shall call the first meeting
6 of the council no later than September 1, 2018, and a chairman shall be elected
7 from among the council's membership at this meeting.

8 (2) The council shall meet upon the call of the chairman, but not less than
9 twice annually.

10 F. The Board of Regents shall provide staff support to assist the council
11 in performing its duties and responsibilities.

12 G. The council shall:

13 (1) Advise the commissioner of higher education regarding methods to
14 enhance the capabilities of public HBCUs to serve the needs of their students
15 and the state and methods whereby the state can better serve HBCUs. The
16 advisory council shall also help identify methods to:

17 (a) Improve the identity, visibility, distinctive capabilities, and overall
18 competitiveness of HBCUs.

19 (b) Provide the highest quality education to the greatest number of
20 students.

21 (c) Promote centers of academic research and programmatic excellence.

22 (d) Strengthen the fiscal stability of HBCUs.

23 (e) Increase HBCUs contribution to the state's educational and
24 workforce goals.

25 (f) Elevate public awareness of the contributions and value of HBCUs.

26 (g) Encourage public-private investments in HBCUs.

27 (h) Engage the philanthropic, business, government, and education
28 communities in a dialogue regarding current and future HBCU programs and
29 initiatives.

- (16) The president of the ACLU of Louisiana, or his designee.
- (17) The president of the Senate, or his designee.
- (18) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.
- (19) The chairman of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, or his designee.

Proposed law requires the commissioner of higher education to call the first meeting of the council by September 1, 2018. Further provides that the chairman of the council be elected from among the membership at this meeting. Additionally provides that the council shall meet upon the call of the chairman, but not less than twice annually.

Proposed law provides that the council shall advise the commissioner of higher education regarding methods to enhance the capabilities of public HBCUs in order to better serve their students and the state and to strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to participate in federal and state programs.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:3138.7 and R.S. 36:651(T)(7))