

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY REPRESENTATIVES NANCY LANDRY, AMEDEE, BAGLEY, BARRAS, BILLIOT, BRASS, CHAD BROWN, CARMODY, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, ROBBY CARTER, STEVE CARTER, CHANEY, COUSSAN, COX, DEVILLIER, GLOVER, HALL, HILL, HOWARD, HUNTER, IVEY, JAMES, LEGER, LYONS, MAGEE, GREGORY MILLER, PIERRE, POPE, REYNOLDS, SCHEXNAYDER, SMITH, WRIGHT, AND ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, in coordination with the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, to develop a pilot program to provide public postsecondary education scholarships to certain students.

WHEREAS, current data and occupational forecasts indicate that a majority of high-demand, high-paying occupations will require more than a high school education; and

WHEREAS, half of Louisiana's working-age adults have a high school diploma or less and lack the skills and education needed to fully participate in the economy; and

WHEREAS, every effort must be made to provide greater access to postsecondary education to those adults in order to move them from the rolls of the underemployed or unemployed to the rolls of a skilled workforce and to ensure that they are prepared to meet the current and future workforce needs of the state and are capable of self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, current law provides for the TOPS-Tech Award, a merit-based scholarship for recent high school graduates seeking degrees and credentials that are closely aligned with the needs of business and industry; and

WHEREAS, a scholarship program for adults similar to TOPS-Tech may attract and engage more of the working-age population in public postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System has demonstrated success in outreach to the business community through programs administered through the Workforce and Innovation for a Stronger Economy (WISE) Fund and to adults through the Work Ready-U program; and

WHEREAS, further development of a well-educated, highly skilled, and productive workforce is paramount to the economic growth of this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, in coordination with the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, to develop a pilot program to provide public postsecondary education scholarships for use in programs aligned with high-demand, high-paying occupations by Louisiana's working-age citizens who have earned an alternative high school diploma and who have scored at least a seventeen on the ACT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana shall not appropriate additional funds for the administration of the pilot program and that the program shall be administered using private contributions solicited and collected by Louisiana Community and Technical College System institutions and foundations or through the realignment of existing financial aid and scholarship programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Community and Technical College System shall submit a written report of its findings regarding the development and implementation of the pilot program, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, the commissioner of higher education, and the executive director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES