

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 81

BY SENATORS ALLAIN, ALARIO, BARROW, BISHOP, CHABERT, COLOMB, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HENSGENS, JOHNS, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, RISER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents to create the Postsecondary Education Agriculture Technology Study Commission.

WHEREAS, the agriculture and forestry industry contributes an estimated ten billion dollars annually to the economy of the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the agricultural industry is dependent upon highly specialized training and certifications to ensure the safe and reliable performance of agricultural machinery and equipment needed to harvest and prepare agricultural products for market and thus drive the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance and repair of agricultural machinery and equipment requires specialized training and certifications to ensure the safe and reliable performance of the equipment and to comply with manufacturer warranty repair requirements; and

WHEREAS, technological improvements in precision agriculture and land grading require additional training for producers as a means to improve production and the ability to compete at the national level; and

WHEREAS, our postsecondary education institutions are key partners in the training of citizens to fill equipment maintenance and repair jobs and to create innovations and opportunities for growth within this industry sector; and

WHEREAS, our postsecondary education institutions have industry partnerships that should be leveraged to ensure that training opportunities are aligned with industry needs,

technical specifications, and emerging technologies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents to create the "Postsecondary Education Agriculture Technology Study Commission" to be composed of fifteen members as follows:

- (1) The president of the University of Louisiana System or his designee.
- (2) The Louisiana State University vice president for agriculture or his designee.
- (3) The chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center or his designee.
- (4) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System or his designee.
- (5) The president of Nicholls State University or his designee.
- (6) The chancellor of Fletcher Technical Community College or his designee.
- (7) Four persons appointed by the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, representing the major agriculture commodity groups.
- (8) The president of Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation or his designee.
- (9) Two persons appointed by the Deep Southern Equipment Dealers Association.
- (10) The state director of United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development in Louisiana or his designee.
- (11) The commissioner of higher education or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commissioner of higher education shall convene the commission for an organizational meeting not later than August 15, 2019. The commission shall elect a chairman and other officers as deemed necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum and any official action taken by the commission shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present and voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the study commission shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses by the respective appointing organization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall provide staff support to the commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall study and make recommendations regarding the needs and opportunities related to the creation of an Agriculture Technology Training Program, including program budgetary needs, curricula, implementation timeline, cross-system collaboration, and any other items the study commission deems necessary for the successful implementation of an Agriculture Technology Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall submit a written report of the commission's findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development, and the House Committee on Education no later than March 1, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Regents and the commissioner of higher education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES