



1           WHEREAS, student debt is a major barrier to adult student reenrollment and degree  
2 completion; many students struggle to afford the growing cost of postsecondary education  
3 and are unable to complete their education because of financial challenges; and

4           WHEREAS, an outstanding balance may lead to registration and transcript holds,  
5 which can discourage students from remaining on the pathway to degree completion while  
6 also preventing some students from reenrolling or transferring to another institution to  
7 complete a degree; and

8           WHEREAS, a decade of disinvestment has radically reduced state support for  
9 Louisiana's colleges and universities and shifted the funding burden to students and their  
10 parents; as a result, postsecondary education institutions are more reliant on self-generated  
11 revenue, including student tuition and fees, to operate; therefore, a reasonable approach to  
12 minimizing student debt and addressing debt forgiveness for adult students must be  
13 considered.

14           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
15 urge and request the Board of Regents, in collaboration with the public postsecondary  
16 education management boards, to conduct a study of student debt relief measures, nationally  
17 and statewide, and to submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including  
18 recommendations for legislation relative to debt as a barrier to reenrollment for those who  
19 have completed some postsecondary education not later than thirty days prior to the  
20 beginning of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature.

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such report shall include findings and  
22 recommendations relative to establishing a student tuition forgiveness and engagement  
23 program that shall provide for the following:

24           (1) Identification and examination of successful programs nationally and within the  
25 state, including pertinent background material, data, an inventory of existing programs, and  
26 recognized best practices that may serve as models for a statewide program in Louisiana,  
27 including:

28           (a) An analysis of the cost of attendance by institution, state support per student,  
29 financial aid from nonstate sources, and population-based metrics to better understand  
30 affordability and student cost options.

1 (b) A recommendation for policy steps to improve public postsecondary education  
2 affordability in Louisiana and maximize federal and state financial aid to both traditional and  
3 nontraditional student populations, including:

4 (i) The development of a method of informing students of their estimated current  
5 student loan indebtedness for the purposes of planning prior to students incurring additional  
6 debt for each upcoming academic term.

7 (ii) The development of a proposal related to debt mitigation, debt forgiveness, or  
8 payment deferrals using the expertise of the office of debt recovery within the Department  
9 of Revenue, the office of the attorney general, and the public postsecondary education  
10 management boards and institutions to develop and implement a student tuition forgiveness  
11 program in Louisiana.

12 (iii) An estimate of costs associated with the implementation of such a program and  
13 identification of potential funding sources to sustain the program.

14 (2) A plan and timeline for implementation of the recommendations.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
16 chairman of the Board of Regents, the commissioner of higher education, and the chairman  
17 of each public postsecondary education management board.

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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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HCR 96 Original

2019 Regular Session

Falconer

Requests the Bd. of Regents report to the legislature on student debt relief measures not later than 30 days prior to the 2020 R.S.