

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 206

BY SENATOR MORRISH

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 continue a pilot program to provide public postsecondary education scholarships to certain adult students and to submit written reports of its findings regarding the development and implementation of the program, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature and the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature.

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, House Resolution No. 112 and Senate Resolution No. 113 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature requested the Louisiana Community and Technical College System 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; and

WHEREAS, the scholarship program for adults did attract and engage more of the working-age population in public postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, the adults participating in the scholarship program have demonstrated success with higher average rates of persistence and grade point averages than students who graduated from high school and have received a TOPS-Tech award; and

WHEREAS, further development of this pilot scholarship program is necessary to aid in the development of a well-educated, highly skilled, and productive workforce, which is of paramount importance to the economic growth of this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate 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 further develop and expand the pilot program created in response to the request of House Resolution No. 112 and Senate Resolution No. 113 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the scale of the expanded pilot scholarship program administered by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System shall be determined by the funds raised by the colleges or appropriated to them.

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 Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature and the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a 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.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE