

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY SENATOR CHABERT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents to create the Higher Education Maritime Campus Consortium Task Force.

WHEREAS, the maritime industry within the state of Louisiana contributes to the state and federal economy with an estimated one-in-five jobs in the state being connected to the maritime industry; and

WHEREAS, jobs within the maritime industry are annually identified as providing high wages and being in high demand; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana ranks first nationally in waterborne commerce, accounting for twenty percent of the national total; and

WHEREAS, our higher education institutions are key partners in the training of citizens to fill these jobs, providing innovations within this industry sector, and providing opportunities for growth in this industry sector; and

WHEREAS, various higher education institutions across south Louisiana have assets aimed toward meeting the needs of this industry sector, but additional assets and alignment across higher education systems will be necessary to support and grow the maritime industry within the state; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of consortia and similar centers for collaborative efforts has proven to be an effective method to focus efforts and provide resources to meet critical market demands; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents is charged by the Constitution of Louisiana with coordinating the efforts of the higher education systems and is provided authority relative to the establishment of centers of excellence; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents has led ongoing, informal, and collaborative efforts involving specific institutions within the University of Louisiana System and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that the Board of Regents formalize its existing workgroup through the establishment of the Higher Education Maritime Campus Consortium Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall study the needs and opportunities relative to the creation of a maritime campus and center and to make recommendations regarding its establishment, operations, and cross-system collaboration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The commissioner of higher education or his designee.
- (2) The chancellor of Fletcher Technical Community College or his designee.
- (3) The president of Nicholls State University or his designee.
- (4) The chancellor of Delgado Community College or his designee.
- (5) The chancellor of Northshore Technical Community College or his designee.
- (6) The president of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette or his designee.
- (7) The chancellor of South Louisiana Community College or his designee.
- (8) The chancellor of Southwest Louisiana Technical Community College or his designee.
- (9) The executive director of the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium for Research and Education or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that five members of the task force shall constitute a quorum sufficient to conduct the meetings and business of the task force. The task force shall elect a chairman from its membership and may seek and receive assistance from colleges and universities, as well as the Board of Regents, with regard to data necessary for the fulfillment of their duties. The members of the task force shall serve without additional compensation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall study the need for the establishment of a maritime campus and center and make recommendations with respect to its establishment, operations, and investments necessary to ensure the effective delivery of training and support to the maritime industry sector that will assist the industry in continuing to be an economic driver in Louisiana, regionally, nationally, and globally; and to its

pathway to achieving demonstrable positive outcomes necessary to seek the Board of Regents' designation as a maritime center of excellence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall issue a report to the governor of the state of Louisiana, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, and the chairman of the House Committee on Education no later than February 1, 2020, and thereafter as may be requested.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES