

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 154

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

HIGHER EDUCATION: Requires each public postsecondary education institution to create a policy discussion program on campus

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Part XV of Chapter 26 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be
3 comprised of R.S. 17:3399.41, relative to public postsecondary education; to require
4 the chief executive officer of each public postsecondary education institution to
5 create a public policy discussion program on campus; to provide for the assignment
6 of duties relative to such program; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. The provisions of this Act shall be known and may be cited as the
9 "Campus Intellectual Diversity Act".

10 Section 2. Part XV of Chapter 26 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of
11 1950, comprised of R.S. 17:3399.41, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 PART XV. CAMPUS INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY

13 §3399.41. Intellectual diversity programs

14 The chief executive officer of each public postsecondary education institution
15 shall create an intellectual diversity program on campus. In creating the program,
16 he shall task members of his office staff with the following duties:

- 17 (1) Organizing, publicizing, and staging debates, group forums, and
18 individual lectures that address, from multiple, divergent, and opposing perspectives,
19 an extensive range of public policy issues. For purposes of this Section, these
20 debates, forums, and lectures shall be referred to as public policy events.

- 1 (2) Inviting speakers who hold a wide range of perspectives from within and
 2 outside the campus community to participate in public policy events with particular
 3 attention to inviting speakers from outside the institution who can articulate
 4 perspectives on widely debated public policy issues.
- 5 (3) Maintaining a searchable calendar of public policy events on the
 6 institution's website.
- 7 (4) If funding is available:
- 8 (a) Providing transportation and lodging expenses to speakers when the
 9 speakers are from outside the campus community.
- 10 (b) Publishing a video recording of each public policy event on the
 11 institution's website, which shall be accessible for not less than five consecutive
 12 years following the date of the event recorded.

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)]

HB 154 Original

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Hodges

Abstract: Requires the establishment of a public policy discussion program on each public college campus.

Proposed law requires the chief executive officer of each public postsecondary education institution to create an intellectual diversity program on campus. In creating such a program, he shall task members of his office staff with the following duties:

- (1) Organizing debates, forums, and lectures that address an extensive range of public policy issues widely discussed and debated (known as public policy events).
- (2) Inviting speakers who hold a wide range of perspectives to participate in public policy events with attention to inviting speakers from outside the institution who can provide perspectives on issues.
- (3) Maintaining a searchable calendar of such events on the institution's website.
- (4) If funding is available:
 - (a) Providing transportation and lodging expenses to speakers from outside the campus community.
 - (b) Publishing a recording of each event on the institution's website, which shall be accessible for not less than five consecutive years.

(Adds R.S. 17:3399.41)