
The original instrument was prepared by Morgan B. Robertson. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Martha Hess.

SB 79 Engrossed DIGEST Abraham
2020 Regular Session

Proposed law creates the La. Cybersecurity Initiative Fund (fund) for the purpose of funding degree and certificate programs in cybersecurity fields in order to meet workforce needs and provides the following:

- (1) Fund monies shall be appropriated to the Board of Regents to be distributed to public postsecondary education institutions.
- (2) Institutions shall use the funds for expansion of cybersecurity programs.
- (3) Public postsecondary education management boards shall certify that a match of at least 25% is guaranteed by a private entity.
- (4) Fund monies shall not be included in the public postsecondary funding formula calculation and are in addition to, and shall not affect, any state general fund allocations to institutions.
- (5) The Board of Regents shall annually submit a report to certain legislative committees containing specified information relative to the fund.

Proposed law creates the Cybersecurity Education Management Council under the auspices of the Board of Regents for the purpose of advising and making recommendations to the Board of Regents with respect to distributions from the fund. Requires the council to annually review and approve the list of degree and certificate programs upon which the distribution is based and the final distribution amounts.

Proposed law provides for council membership as follows:

- (1) Two members appointed by the governor.
- (2) The commissioner of higher education or his designee.
- (3) A representative of the state Dept. of Education with expertise in science, technology, engineering, and math education appointed by the state superintendent of education.
- (4) The president of the La. Chemical Assoc. or his designee.
- (5) The president of the La. State University System or his designee.

- (6) The president of the Southern University System or his designee.
- (7) The president of the University of La. System or his designee.
- (8) The president of the La. Community and Technical College System or his designee.
- (9) The secretary of the La. Workforce Commission or his designee.
- (10) The secretary of the La. Dept. of Economic Development or his designee.

Proposed law further requires:

- (1) A vacancy to be filled in the same manner as the original appointment and members to elect a chairman, vice chairman, and other officers as they deem necessary.
- (2) Members to serve without compensation; they shall be reimbursed for actual expenses to the extent that funds are made available.
- (3) The council to meet at least quarterly; special meetings shall be held on call of the chairman or of a quorum of the members of the council.
- (4) The council to be domiciled in Baton Rouge, but it may hold public meetings elsewhere.

Effective August 1, 2020.

(Adds R.S. 17:3138.9 and R.S. 36:651(G)(9))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the original bill

1. Clarifies that the Council is created under the auspices of the Board of Regents.
2. Provides that the Council is to make recommendations to the Board of Regents.
3. Changes meetings from monthly to quarterly.
4. Makes technical amendments.