

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUGHES

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates April 26, 2021, as HBCU Day at the state
capitol

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To designate Monday, April 26, 2021, as HBCU Day at the state capitol.

3 WHEREAS, Louisiana is proud to be home to eight Historically Black Colleges and
4 Universities, or HBCUs: Dillard University, Grambling State University, Southern
5 University and A&M College, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension
6 Center, Southern Law Center, Southern University at New Orleans, Southern University at
7 Shreveport, and Xavier University; and

8 WHEREAS, that fact, considered in tandem with the fact that Louisiana is home to
9 the nation's only HBCU system, the Southern University System, uniquely positions the state
10 as an exemplar of successful HBCU policy and practice; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2019-2020, Louisiana's HBCUs collectively enrolled 22,854 students;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, since their establishment 184 years ago, HBCUs have provided Black
14 students with a powerful avenue, and for some, the only available path, to a college degree;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, as Louisiana grapples with both the global COVID-19 pandemic and
17 historic national civil unrest, HBCUs have proven to be invaluable assets based on their
18 history, student experiences, and societal contributions; and

19 WHEREAS, several HBCUs are contributing research to help fight the biological and
20 sociopolitical impacts of the pandemic; and

1 WHEREAS, higher education universally provides wide-ranging benefits to students,
2 including higher average lifetime wages, better career opportunities, increased job security
3 and satisfaction, and better health, and exerts a considerable economic impact on
4 communities, the state, and the region; and

5 WHEREAS, HBCUs enroll and successfully graduate greater numbers of low-
6 income, first-generation, and academically underprepared college students compared to non-
7 HBCUs; and

8 WHEREAS, evidence demonstrates that high levels of student-faculty engagement
9 and mentorship at HBCUs lead to stronger student success; and

10 WHEREAS, HBCUs are credited with building the Black middle class in America,
11 and Black graduates of HBCUs are significantly more likely to be better off financially and
12 socially; and

13 WHEREAS, research has found that, on average, 58% of Black HBCU graduates
14 strongly agree that professors at their university cared about them as individuals, as
15 compared to 25% for Black non-HBCU graduates; and

16 WHEREAS, Black HBCU graduates are nearly twice as likely as Black graduates
17 of non-HBCUs to strongly agree that their university prepared them well for life outside of
18 college; and

19 WHEREAS, the pageantry, traditions, bands, and collegiate rivalries of HBCUs are
20 second to none; and

21 WHEREAS, Louisiana's HBCUs have distinguished themselves nationally and in the
22 state of Louisiana in numerous ways such as the following:

23 (1) Dillard University is one of the nation's leading producers of Black physicists.

24 (2) Grambling State University is the leading producer of computer science
25 graduates in the state of Louisiana and the only institution to offer bachelor's degree
26 programs in cybersecurity and cloud computing.

27 (3) Southern University in Baton Rouge is a leading producer of Black engineers in
28 Louisiana, and its graduates play significant roles at the National Aeronautics and Space
29 Administration, Boeing, International Business Machines, Entergy, and Dow Chemical,
30 among other leading companies.

1 (4) Southern University at New Orleans is the only HBCU to offer a forensic science
2 program.

3 (5) Southern University at Shreveport is the only two-year community college in
4 north Louisiana with an aerospace technology program.

5 (6) Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center is the first
6 HBCU to launch its own CBC and THC medical marijuana lines.

7 (7) Southern University Law Center counts among its alumni 104 attorneys who are
8 currently serving as judges.

9 (8) Xavier University has been nationally recognized by the Association of
10 American Medical Colleges for the number of Black graduates that go on to successfully
11 complete medical school.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
13 designate Monday, April 26, 2021, as HBCU Day at the state capitol and does hereby
14 express sincere gratitude to the Historically Black Colleges and Universities of Louisiana
15 for their manifold contributions to the state and the nation.

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)]

HCR 38 Original

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