

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 150

BY REPRESENTATIVE GLOVER

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: Requests the Bd. of Regents and LSU Board of Supervisors to study and report relative to the status of the LSU Shreveport Commitment Plan of 2012

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Board of Regents and the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State
3 University and Agricultural and Mechanical College to collaboratively study and
4 report relative to the status of the Louisiana State University Shreveport
5 Commitment Plan of 2012, including an update on the needs and strategies outlined
6 in the 2012 report by Eva Klein and Associates, *Achieving a Comprehensive Public*
7 *University in Shreveport-Bossier: Analysis of Alternative Strategies.*

8 WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan was
9 developed by Louisiana State University at Shreveport (LSUS) in collaboration with the
10 Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) at Shreveport and Louisiana
11 State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College; and

12 WHEREAS, published on April 4, 2012, the plan addresses the continued evolution
13 of LSUS as a major university presence in the Shreveport region; and

14 WHEREAS, on April 27, 2012, the LSU Board of Supervisors unanimously endorsed
15 the plan and directed its implementation through close collaboration with all institutions in
16 the LSU System, recognizing that all LSU entities have a stake in the successful
17 development of LSUS; and

18 WHEREAS, the plan defined both a series of short-term initiatives designed to
19 provide immediate impact from new program offerings and longer-term initiatives to grow
20 selected graduate programs; and

1 WHEREAS, the plan also identified programs, degrees, and certificates, recognized
2 the commitment of the responsible university administrators for each program, and
3 established a timeline for implementation; and

4 WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 112 of the 2012 Regular Session of the
5 legislature expressed support for the plan, urged the Board of Regents and all public
6 postsecondary education institutions in the Shreveport region to cooperate with the plan, and
7 requested that the LSU Board of Supervisors report to the legislature over the next three
8 academic years on matters including details on new programs offered and put into effect as
9 well as student enrollment and completion data for such programs; and

10 WHEREAS, the plan is regarded by many to be merely, in the words of LSU-S
11 chancellor Larry Clark, a "political document", that did not represent the needs of students,
12 prospective students, or regional employers or embody a realistic or worthwhile vision for
13 the future; and

14 WHEREAS, Chancellor Clark noted in past remarks that the plan was "quickly
15 pulled together" and that "everyone involved in creating that document is no longer in place,
16 either at LSU or LSU-S"; and

17 WHEREAS, there is widespread consensus that there has been a grave lack of
18 investment in LSU-S and that the commitment plan fell woefully short in terms of
19 realistically addressing the measures needed to strengthen the institution and meet the needs
20 of its students; and

21 WHEREAS, there remains an extremely strong need for investment in and support
22 for LSU-S and further educational opportunities in the Shreveport-Bossier area; and

23 WHEREAS, prior to the publication of the commitment plan, the Board of Regents,
24 along with several community organizations, co-sponsored a study conducted in 2011-2012
25 by Eva Klein and Associates, which analyzed unmet needs in postsecondary education in the
26 Shreveport-Bossier region; the report resulting from this study was published in February
27 of 2012; and

28 WHEREAS, it has been several years since the issuance of the last report from the
29 LSU Board of Supervisors and the publication of the Eva Klein report, and there is ongoing

1 discussion as to the progress made in implementing the components of the plan and the
2 strategies recommended in the report; and

3 WHEREAS, it is appropriate at this time that the Board of Regents and the LSU
4 Board of Supervisors take the necessary measures to provide an update on these important
5 issues.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
7 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents and the Board
8 of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College to
9 submit a written report to the House Committee on Education on the status of the Louisiana
10 State University Shreveport Commitment Plan of 2012, including but not limited to whether
11 or not the commitments contained in the plan have been fulfilled and if the plan is still in
12 place.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the plan is not still in place, the report shall
14 identify what specific vision, plan, or strategy is in place for the future of LSUS that will
15 result in its establishment as the comprehensive research university that is needed in the
16 Shreveport area.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such report shall include an analysis of the status
18 of meeting the needs and implementing the strategies outlined in the 2012 report by Eva
19 Klein and Associates, *Achieving a Comprehensive Public University in Shreveport-Bossier:*
20 *Analysis of Alternative Strategies*, including the following:

21 (1) Needs: Reconfiguring academic programs so that all are high quality and market
22 responsive; growing incoming enrollment and improving retention and degree completion
23 rates; strengthening recruitment and marketing; improving the quality of the student
24 experience in and beyond the classroom; recognizing and responding to scheduling and
25 support service needs of adult students; building greater engagement with the community;
26 and growing both state and self-generated resources.

27 (2) Strategies for addressing these needs: Assessing all existing programs as well as
28 proposed new ones; where appropriate, revamping traditional programs to achieve
29 interdisciplinary structure and content; aligning programs more closely with industry,
30 service, and professional enterprises in the metro area; building graduate programs in health

1 care fields based on alliances with the LSUHSC-Shreveport; developing graduate programs
2 oriented to urban needs; building on existing strengths; aligning the program delivery
3 calendar and schedule with underserved populations' needs; where possible, restructuring
4 and revising presently authorized degree programs; and reducing program duplication in the
5 Shreveport-Bossier market.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such report shall be submitted to the House
7 Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2022 Regular
8 Session of the Legislature.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
10 commissioner of higher education, the chairman of the Board of Regents, the chairman of
11 the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical
12 College, and the chancellor of Louisiana State University at Shreveport.

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)]

HR 150 Original

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