POSTSECONDARY ED. Provides relative to certain practices of public postsecondary institutions. (8/1/23)

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:3153, relative to the granting of admissions and financial aid at public postsecondary education institutions; to prohibit the use of information on race, sex, or national origin in admission practices and in the awarding of certain student aid; to prohibit the use of subjective or vague criteria in admission practices; to require institutions to report certain information; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:3153 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§3153. Consideration of race, sex, or national origin; prohibited acts

A.(1) A public postsecondary education institution shall not use information regarding a prospective student's or a prospective student's family member's race, sex, or national origin during the admissions process to determine the prospective student's acceptance for admission into the institution or a program of study.

(2) A public postsecondary education institution shall clearly state the criteria used in admissions processes in the institution's admissions documents and on the institution's admissions website. Subjective or vague criteria shall...
not be used in determining whether a prospective student is granted acceptance

into the institution or a program of study at the institution.

B.(1) A public postsecondary education institution shall not provide
preferential treatment based on a student's or a student's family member's race,
sex, or national origin for the awarding of scholarships, grants, or financial aid
of any type, unless the donor or aid program requires the preferential
treatment.

(2) No scholarship, grant, or financial aid funded with any state or
institutional monies shall include terms that provide preferential treatment
based on race, sex, or national origin.

(3) By November 1, 2023, each public postsecondary institution shall
provide a report to the Senate Committee on Education and the House
Committee on Education on each scholarship, grant, or financial aid program
available for students that requires the consideration of a student's or a
student's family member's race, sex, or national origin and shall identify the
funding mechanism for each.

C. A student may bring suit in the district court for the parish in which
an action in violation of this Section occurred for the issuance of a writ of
mandamus or injunctive or declaratory relief to require compliance with the
provisions of this Section, together with reasonable attorney fees and costs.
awarding of scholarships, grants, or other financial aid, unless the aid program requires the preferential treatment.

Proposed law prohibits a scholarship, grant, or financial aid program funded with any state or institutional monies from including terms that provide preferential treatment based on race, sex, or national origin.

Proposed law requires each public postsecondary institution to provide a report to the Senate and House education committees on the aid programs that require the consideration of a student's race, sex, or national origin and to identify the funding mechanism for each aid program.

Proposed law provides that a student may seek a writ of mandamus or injunctive relief, together with attorney fees and costs, to require compliance with proposed law.

Effective August 1, 2023.

(Adds R.S. 17:3153)