

---

## 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)]

---

Tucker

HB No. 537

**Abstract:** Provides for the transfer of the University of New Orleans from the Louisiana State University System to the University of Louisiana System, states legislative findings relative to goals for the postsecondary education delivery system for the New Orleans Region, and requires the Board of Regents and three public postsecondary education management boards to develop written action plans to best accomplish these goals.

Proposed law provides for the transfer of the University of New Orleans (UNO) from the Louisiana State University (LSU) System to the University of Louisiana (UL) System as follows:

- (1) Requires the chancellor of UNO to submit a letter to the president of the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS), not later than Aug. 1, 2011, stating his intent for a change in governance from the Board of Supervisors of the LSU System to the Board of Supervisors for the UL System.
- (2) Requires the chancellor, faculty, and administration of UNO to take every action necessary to efficiently and expeditiously comply with all SACS timelines, requirements, and procedures to ensure that the requested change of governance may be effected immediately upon receipt of commission approval.
- (3) Transfers UNO to the UL System, pursuant to the authority granted to the legislature by the La. Constitution to transfer an institution from one board to another by law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house. Also transfers the assets, funds, obligations, liabilities, programs, and functions related to the institution.
- (4) Requires the Board of Supervisors for the UL System to develop policies and procedures to resolve issues related to the status and tenure of UNO employees which may arise from the transfer.

Provides that the LSU Board of Supervisors shall:

- (1) Continue to exercise its authority to supervise and manage UNO until such time as SACS grants approval for the requested change in governance and transfer of the institution to the UL System.
- (2) Work cooperatively and collaboratively with the UL System board to ensure that the transfer may be effected immediately upon receipt of SACS approval.

- (3) Enter into agreements to transfer as many UNO administrative and supervisory functions as possible to the UL System, prior to receipt of SACS approval, without adversely impacting the accreditation status of the institution.
- (4) Immediately transfer all assets, funds, facilities, property, obligations, liabilities, programs, and functions relative to UNO to the UL System, upon receipt of SACS approval for the transfer.

Provides that the LSU Board of Supervisors shall not:

- (1) Interfere with or impede in any way the processes to transfer UNO to the UL System.
- (2) Sell, transfer, or otherwise remove any asset or thing of value, movable or immovable, tangible or intangible, attributable to or owned by UNO, or owned, leased by, or operated by any foundation related to UNO on the effective date of proposed law. Further provides that access to any asset leased to any foundation related to UNO shall not be restricted or denied.
- (3) Incur, transfer, or assign any debt or other responsibility or obligation to UNO that is not properly attributable to either institution on the effective date of proposed law.
- (4) Disproportionately reduce or reallocate the level of funding that would otherwise be allocated to UNO pursuant to the postsecondary education funding formula. Provides that until UNO is transferred to the UL System, no budget reductions or changes in funding allocations for the institution shall be imposed without prior review and approval from the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.
- (5) Take any personnel action with regard to any instructional or administrative employee of UNO without the prior approval of the Board of Regents.

Proposed law requires the commissioner of administration to ensure that sufficient funds and resources are available to fully effect the transfer of UNO to the UL System.

Present law (R.S. 17:3215(2)) places UNO in the LSU System.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Proposed law (R.S. 17:3241) states legislative intent that a comprehensive, integrated regional delivery system be provided for the delivery of public postsecondary education services in the New Orleans region. Specifies delivery system goals and requires the Board of Regents and the management boards for the UL System, Southern University System, and Community and Technical College System to adopt (by not later than Feb. 1, 2012) written action plans to accomplish the goals. Provides for the adopted action plans to be submitted to the legislative education committees.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:3217; Adds R.S. 17:3230 and 3241; Repeals R.S. 17:3215(2))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Changes proposed law to provide for the transfer of UNO from the LSU System to the UL System, state legislative findings relative to goals for the postsecondary education delivery system for the New Orleans Region, and require the Board of Regents and three public postsecondary education management boards to develop written action plans to best accomplish these goals rather than to provide for the consolidation of SUNO and UNO and for management of the consolidated institution by the UL System.