The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

Appel (SB 150)

<u>Present law</u> requires the Bd. of Regents to formulate and establish geographic regions of the state in order to maximize the use of the instructional and physical resources of existing state postsecondary educational institutions and regionally accredited independent postsecondary educational institutions. Further requires the board to establish the regions such that at least one public institution of higher education which awards baccalaureate degrees shall be within the geographic boundaries of, or shall be assigned by the board to, each region.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains these provisions.

<u>Present law</u> requires the Bd. of Regents to evaluate the instructional and physical resources of existing postsecondary institutions within each region of the state, including the resources of existing higher education institutions, and assure maximum use thereof before recommending the creation of any new postsecondary institution within the region. Provides that the Bd. of Regents may provide for the use within a region of existing resources from outside the region before recommending the creation of any new postsecondary institution within the region.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and additionally requires the Bd. of Regents to consider whether the merger of two or more existing postsecondary institutions within a region would increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of public postsecondary educational services and programs within the region.

Effective August 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 17:3126(D)(2)(a))