
DIGEST

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Jefferson

HB No. 561

Abstract: Provides with respect to the waiving of nonresident tuition or mandatory fee increases in cases of financial hardship.

Present law provides with respect to the general powers, duties, and functions of postsecondary education management boards.

Present law provides that any public postsecondary education institution may enter into an initial performance agreement with the Board of Regents in order to be granted limited operational autonomy and tuition flexibility as provided in present law (R.S. 17:3139.5) in exchange for committing to meet established targets for certain performance objectives.

Present law provides that one such objective is institutional efficiency and accountability. Meeting such an objective requires adherence to a schedule established by the institution's management board to increase nonresident tuition amounts that are not less than the average tuition amount charged to La. residents attending peer institutions in other Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) states and monitor the impact of such increases on the institution. Further provides that, for each public historically black college, the nonresident tuition amounts shall not be less than the average tuition amount charged to La. residents attending public historically black colleges in other SREB states.

Proposed law provides that each postsecondary education management board shall establish criteria for waiving any nonresident tuition or mandatory fee increase as authorized in present law in cases of financial hardship. Further requires that information relative to such waivers and the criteria and procedures for obtaining a waiver be made available to all prospective students in a timely manner such that each student is informed of the availability of a waiver prior to making a final decision concerning attendance at any public institution of postsecondary education. Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:3139.2(4)(c))