2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 200

BY REPRESENTATIVE WESLEY BISHOP

HIGHER ED/BD REGENTS: Requests the Board of Regents to review and consider revising its master plan relative to the plan's goal of increasing postsecondary educational attainment

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Board of Regents, in consultation with the public postsecondary
3	education management boards, to review and consider revising the Master Plan for
4	Postsecondary Education relative to meeting the plan's goal of increasing educational
5	attainment.
6	WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(D) of the Constitution of Louisiana provides for
7	the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Board of Regents, including the requirement
8	that the board formulate and make timely revision of a master plan for postsecondary
9	education; and
10	WHEREAS, the Board of Regents, through the development and implementation of
11	the Master Plan for Postsecondary Education: 2011, advanced its vision for the future of
12	postsecondary education by adopting several broad goals, one of which is increasing the
13	educational attainment of the state's adult population to reach the Southern Regional
14	Education Board (SREB) states' average by 2025; and
15	WHEREAS, according to the third annual review of the master plan, which the Board
16	of Regents published in August of 2014, the annual number of graduates is ultimately the
17	most important measure of the state's progress toward the goal of reaching this average, and
18	to reach this educational attainment goal by 2025, the state needs to increase its number of
19	graduates significantly; and

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1 WHEREAS, according to a 2013 American Community Survey, United States 2 Census figures show that only 29.6% of Louisiana's 2.4 million adults ages twenty-five to 3 sixty-four hold a two-year or four-year college degree, and the state's rate of postsecondary 4 educational attainment is well below the national average of 40%; and 5 WHEREAS, research shows that attainment rates across the country vary 6 significantly based on race and ethnicity, geography, and other factors; while overall 7 attainment is increasing, the gaps in attainment linked to race and ethnicity are not narrowing 8 significantly and deserve special scrutiny; and 9 WHEREAS, successfully educating veterans and returning adults would assist the 10 state of Louisiana in meeting its goal of increasing educational attainment; and 11 WHEREAS, the Lumina Foundation, like the Board of Regents, considers increasing 12 educational attainment a major priority; the foundation is an independent, private foundation 13 committed to increasing the proportion of Americans with high-quality degrees, certificates, 14 and other credentials to 60% by 2025, known as "Goal 2025"; this goal is a national priority 15 because postsecondary education is a prerequisite to success in a knowledge-based society 16 and economy; and 17 WHEREAS, the Lumina Foundation, while acknowledging that there are obstacles, 18 asserts that America can increase educational attainment with a three-pronged approach: 19 improving student enrollment, persistence, and completion, particularly by underrepresented 20 students; supporting adults' efforts to return to college; and recognizing all forms of 21 high-quality postsecondary credentials; and 22 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes the importance of increasing postsecondary 23 educational attainment and closing achievement gaps in Louisiana. 24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 25 request the Board of Regents, in consultation with the public postsecondary education 26 management boards, to review and consider revising the Master Plan for Postsecondary 27 Education relative to meeting the plan's goal of increasing educational attainment. 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting such review and possible revision,

29 the board should focus on improving student enrollment, persistence, and completion,

- 1 particularly by underrepresented students, including minorities, returning adults, and
- 2 veterans.
- 3

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted

4 to the chairman of the Board of Regents and the commissioner of higher education.

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)]

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2015 Regular Session

Wesley Bishop

Requests that the Bd. of Regents, in consultation with the public postsecondary education management boards, review and consider revising the Master Plan for Postsecondary Education relative to meeting the plan's goal of increasing educational attainment, focusing on improving student enrollment, persistence, and completion, particularly by underrepresented students, including minorities, returning adults, and veterans.