



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.

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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.