

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

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)]

HCR 200 Engrossed

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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.