

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**HB 61****2015 Regular Session****Carmody**

STUDENT/TUITION: (Constitutional Amendment) Exempts public postsecondary education tuition and fees from requirements for imposing a new or increasing an existing fee and provides relative to the authority to set tuition and fees

Synopsis of Senate Amendments
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide that the proposed constitutional amendment will not be submitted to the voters if Senate Bill No. 48 of this Session does not become effective.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present constitution requires that all new fees or increases of existing fees imposed by the state or any board, department, or agency of the state be enacted by a two-thirds vote of the legislature. This provision of present constitution applies to tuition and fees charged to students attending public institutions of postsecondary education. Proposed constitutional amendment exempts new or increased tuition and fees charged to students attending public institutions of postsecondary education from the two-thirds voting requirement of the legislature.

Present constitution provides for the management of public institutions of postsecondary education by various entities, namely the LSU Board of Supervisors, the Southern University Board of Supervisors, the Board of Supervisors for the University of La. System, and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges. Proposed constitutional amendment retains the general authority of these management boards but specifically excludes from their constitutional authority the ability to establish or raise tuition and fees and, instead, provides that such authority is as provided in law.

Provides for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held Oct. 24, 2015, only if SB No. 48 of this 2015 R.S. is enacted and becomes effective. (SB No. 48 places limits on award amounts pursuant to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)).

If ratified by the electors, the provisions of the amendments become effective on Jan. 1, 2016.

(Amends Const. Art. VIII, §5(E); Adds Const. Art. VII, §2.1(C))