

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 161

BY REPRESENTATIVE BADON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request Louisiana's public colleges and universities to continue to develop and offer online courses such that all bachelor's degrees can be completed entirely online.

WHEREAS, institutions under the management of each public postsecondary education management board offer some courses and degree programs online; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of online degree programs are numerous; for example, students can work at their own pace and schedule, which allows students to more easily integrate pursuit of a degree with the rest of their work and family obligations; and

WHEREAS, online degree programs also allow students to overcome geographic and transportation obstacles by providing the same opportunities to students in other parts of the country or world as those available to students who live in the neighborhood of the institution, which in turn can dramatically reduce the total cost of completing a degree; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana recognized the importance of reducing geographic limitations to student learning in passing Act No. 13 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature, which authorizes the Board of Regents to enter into reciprocity agreements with other states such that online instruction from an institution in one state can be offered in other states; and

WHEREAS, although the number of available online courses at Louisiana's public colleges and universities and the popularity of such courses have grown tremendously over the past several years, there are still few opportunities for students to complete a bachelor's degree entirely online; and

WHEREAS, many of the advantages of online courses are lost if a student cannot complete a bachelor's degree entirely with such courses, because eventually the student will have to arrange to be on campus, to work around fixed-time course offerings, and to pay the personal and financial costs associated therewith, or he or she will not be able to complete a degree and will not have a credential to show for the work that was done.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request Louisiana's public universities to continue to develop and offer online courses such that all bachelor's degrees can be completed entirely online.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Regents for distribution to all Louisiana public postsecondary institutions that offer bachelor's degrees.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE