HLS 16RS-964 **ORIGINAL**

2016 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHRODER

HIGHER ED/BD REGENTS: Directs Bd. of Regents to submit by April 15, 2016, a report outlining initiatives the board, in consultation with management boards, will take to ensure greater efficiency in postsecondary education for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year and beyond

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To direct the Board of Regents to submit to the commissioner of administration and the
3	legislature by April 15, 2016, a report that outlines the initiatives that the board, in
4	consultation with the public postsecondary education management boards, will take
5	to ensure greater accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness in the public
6	postsecondary education system for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year and beyond.
7	WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is facing a \$747 million projected budget deficit
8	in the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year; and
9	WHEREAS, the state general fund expenditures of state government are projected
10	to continue to grow in the five-year continuation baseline projection, but state revenues are
11	not projected to meet those expenditures; and
12	WHEREAS, solving the budget deficits in the coming years and setting the state on
13	a path of continued fiscal responsibility requires a thorough review of all areas of state
14	operations and spending; and
15	WHEREAS, there are numerous areas within state government in which reforming
16	the current policies and practices will produce savings or additional revenues for the state,
17	including the area of public postsecondary education; and
18	WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(D) of the Constitution of Louisiana provides for
19	the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Board of Regents, including the requirement

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2	education; and
3	WHEREAS, the Board of Regents, through the development and implementation of
4	the Master Plan for Postsecondary Education: 2011, adopted several broad goals, one of
5	which is to achieve greater accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness in the postsecondary
6	education system; and
7	WHEREAS, one objective related to this goal, according to the fourth annual review
8	of the master plan, which the Board of Regents published in August of 2015, is to review
9	academic programs and eliminate, as appropriate, programs that are low-performing or
10	duplicative; and
11	WHEREAS, in light of the drastic reduction in the state's share of funding for public
12	postsecondary education institutions, this objective needs much more emphasis, and the
13	public postsecondary education management boards must focus more actively on evaluating
14	whether the continuation of certain programs is justified; and
15	WHEREAS, programs that produce few graduates and those that are considered
16	marginal to or clearly outside the role of the institution should face elimination or
17	consolidation with other programs, even if it means reaching outside traditional boundaries
18	between institutions and developing innovative ways for institutions to share resources and
19	staff; and
20	WHEREAS, institutions must be better enabled to work within a cohesive regional
21	framework that makes the most of scarce resources in a manner that considers the special
22	features of each institution and benefits the institutions and the students and communities
23	they exist to serve; and
24	WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the state and its citizens, and thus incumbent
25	on the Board of Regents, to streamline program offerings, departments, and staff at
26	Louisiana's public postsecondary education institutions in order to ensure that the long-term
27	viability of the state's postsecondary education institutions is sustained and that limited
28	resources are used more effectively and efficiently; and
29	WHEREAS, the Preamble of Article VIII of the Constitution of Louisiana provides
30	that it is the goal of the public educational system to provide learning environments and

that the board formulate and make timely revision of a master plan for postsecondary

1 experiences, at all stages of human development, that are humane, just, and designed to

2 promote excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to

- 3 develop to his full potential; and
- WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every
- 5 student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is imperative that the Board
- 6 of Regents strive to meet its master plan's goal of achieving greater accountability,
- 7 efficiency, and effectiveness in the postsecondary education system and report publicly
- 8 relative to its progress with regard to this crucial endeavor.
- 9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
- direct the Board of Regents to submit to the commissioner of administration and the
- legislature, by April 15, 2016, a report that outlines the initiatives that the board, in
- 12 consultation with the public postsecondary education management boards, will take to
- 13 ensure greater accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness in the public postsecondary
- education system for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year and beyond.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such report shall include but not be limited to
- an examination of the following:
- 17 (1) Eliminating or consolidating certain programs that do not have proven efficacy,
- departments that are unnecessary in furtherance of the master plan, and, where possible,
- reducing the number of administrative staff, which has grown in greater proportion than
- 20 enrollment at many institutions.
- 21 (2) Recognizing and utilizing the unique attributes of each institution and funding
- it in accordance with its mission and the costs associated with its programs.
- 23 (3) Making optimal use of all available fiscal, academic, and physical resources
- 24 through cooperation among institutions to achieve all synergies and efficiencies possible.
- 25 (4) Maximizing the opportunity of all students to successfully and efficiently pursue
- 26 their academic goals while holding students, faculty, and staff accountable for their
- 27 respective roles in postsecondary education.
- 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
- 29 to the chairman of the Board of Regents, the commissioner of higher education, and the
- 30 president of each public postsecondary education management board.

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HCR NO. 35

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 35 Original

2016 Regular Session

Schroder

Directs the Bd. of Regents to submit to the commissioner of administration and the legislature, by April 15, 2016, a report that outlines the initiatives that the board, in consultation with the public postsecondary education management boards, will take to ensure greater accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness in the public postsecondary education system for the 2016-2017 FY and beyond.