

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

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

4 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
10 direct the Board of Regents to submit to the commissioner of administration and the
11 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
14 education system for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year and beyond.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such report shall include but not be limited to
16 an examination of the following:

17 (1) Eliminating or consolidating certain programs that do not have proven efficacy,
18 departments that are unnecessary in furtherance of the master plan, and, where possible,
19 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
22 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.

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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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.