

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 448

BY REPRESENTATIVE DOWNS

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: Provides relative to authority of management boards to charge per credit hour tuition and requires the Board of Regents to adopt certain policies

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3129.9 and 3351.16, relative to tuition charges at certain postsecondary
3 education institutions; to authorize the boards of supervisors of the Louisiana State
4 University System, the Southern University System, the University of Louisiana
5 System, and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges to
6 establish and impose an additional tuition charge on a credit hour basis for students
7 attending the institutions under the management and supervision of each respective
8 board and to provide relative to such charges; to provide conditions; to provide for
9 waivers; to provide requirements for the use of funds generated from the tuition
10 charge; to require the Board of Regents to develop and adopt a tuition refund policy;
11 to provide that such policy may include a withdrawal fee; to provide for an effective
12 date; and to provide for related matters.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. R.S. 17:3129.9 and 3351.16 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 §3129.9. Uniform tuition refund policy; Board of Regents; develop; adopt

16 By not later than August 1, 2011, the Board of Regents shall develop and
17 adopt a uniform tuition refund policy that includes a course withdrawal policy. Such
18 policy may include the assessment of a withdrawal fee which shall not exceed the
19 actual cost of the course. No management board may exercise the per credit hour

1 tuition authority granted in R.S. 17:3351.16 until it has implemented the policy at all
2 of its institutions.

3 * * *

4 §3351.16. Postsecondary education management boards; additional tuition charges
5 per credit hour; conditions; waivers

6 A. In accordance with Article VII, Section 2.1(A) of the Constitution of
7 Louisiana, and in addition to any other authority granted by the legislature to impose
8 tuition or fees, the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and
9 Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors of Southern
10 University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Board of Supervisors for
11 the University of Louisiana System, and the Board of Supervisors of Community and
12 Technical Colleges, upon implementing at all of its institutions the tuition refund
13 policy as provided for in R.S. 17:3129.9, may establish an additional tuition charge
14 per credit hour in which a student is enrolled in excess of twelve credit hours in a
15 semester or in excess of eight credit hours in a quarter. The additional tuition charge
16 shall not be imposed for more than three credit hours above the level required for
17 full-time status, and such charge per credit hour shall not exceed one-twelfth of the
18 tuition charge for twelve credit hours per semester or one-eighth of the tuition charge
19 for eight credit hours per quarter, as the case may be.

20 B. Prior to imposing any additional tuition charge pursuant to the provisions
21 of this Section, the management board shall establish criteria for waivers of such
22 additional tuition charges in cases of financial hardship. Information about such
23 waivers and the criteria and procedures for obtaining a waiver shall be made
24 available to all prospective students affected by the additional charges in a timely
25 manner such that the prospective student can be aware of the charges and the
26 availability of waivers prior to the student making any final decision concerning
27 attendance at the college or university.

1 C. At any institution imposing any additional tuition charge pursuant to the
 2 provisions of this Section, not less than ten percent of the funds generated from the
 3 tuition charge shall be used for need-based student financial aid at the institution.

4 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 5 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 6 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 7 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 8 effective on the day following such approval.

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)]

Downs

HB No. 448

Abstract: Authorizes the public postsecondary education management boards to impose additional per credit hour tuition charges on students enrolled in more than 12 credit hours per semester or eight credit hours per quarter upon implementing the Board of Regents' tuition refund policy required by proposed law.

Proposed law authorizes the boards of supervisors of the LSU System, the Southern University System, the University of La. System, and the La. Community and Technical College System, upon implementing the Board of Regents' course withdrawal policy as provided for in proposed law, to establish an additional tuition charge per credit hour in which a student is enrolled in excess of 12 credit hours in a semester or in excess of eight credit hours in a quarter. Limits such charge per credit hour to 1/12 of the tuition charge for 12 credit hours per semester or 1/8 of the tuition charge for eight credit hours per quarter. Provides that the additional tuition charge shall not be imposed for more than three credit hours above what is required for full-time status. Requires institutions to use at least 10% of the funds generated from the tuition charge for need-based student financial aid.

Proposed law requires the boards to establish criteria for waivers of such additional tuition charges in cases of financial hardship prior to imposing any such additional tuition charge. Further requires that information about such waivers and the criteria and procedures for obtaining a waiver shall be made available to all affected prospective students in a timely manner such that the prospective student can be aware of the charges and the availability of waivers prior to making any final decision concerning attendance at the college or university.

Proposed law is in addition to any other authority of any of the boards to impose tuition or fees.

Proposed law is subject to present constitution (Const. Art. VII, §2.1(A)) which provides that any new fee imposed or assessed by a state board or agency must be enacted by law by a 2/3 vote of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

Proposed law requires the Board of Regents to develop and adopt a uniform tuition refund policy that includes a course withdrawal policy and that may include a withdrawal fee.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:3129.9 and 3351.16)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Adds that the course withdrawal policy may include the assessment of a withdrawal fee.
2. Adds requirement that institutions use not less than 10% of funds generated from the tuition charge for need-based student financial aid.