

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 529

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARTER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: Provides relative to retention of first-year students at public institutions of postsecondary education

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3139(G)(4), relative to public institutions of postsecondary education; to
3 provide relative to standards of student success established by law and the
4 authorities, including authority to increase tuition, that are conditioned on achieving
5 those standards; to provide relative to the retention of first-year students; and to
6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3139(G)(4) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §3139. Louisiana Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas Act; purpose;
10 agreements; monitoring and renewal; reporting

11 * * *

12 G. Monitoring; reporting; renewal.

13 * * *

14 (4) In addition to all of the targets in a performance agreement during the
15 first or any subsequent renewal period, no institution shall be granted or exercise
16 autonomies, including authority to increase tuition, that are contingent on
17 performance pursuant to this Section unless, in the immediately prior academic year,
18 it retained its first-year, full-time degree seeking students at a rate that is predictive
19 of the mean graduation rate of each institution's peers as identified by the Board of
20 Regents in accordance with R.S. 17:3351(A)(5)(e)(i). The Board of Regents shall

1 collect and analyze data from institutions in Southern Regional Education Board
2 member states to determine the appropriate retention rate for each class of institution.

3 * * *

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)]

Carter

HB No. 529

Abstract: Relative to the GRAD Act, provides that for all agreements after the initial six-year agreements, every institution will be required each year to retain its first-year students at a rate predictive of the graduation rate of the institution's peers.

Present law provides for six year agreements between the Bd. of Regents (the board) and public postsecondary education institutions through which institutions agree to make certain improvements in exchange for specified autonomies and authority to increase tuition. Requires the board annually to monitor and report on each participating institution's progress in meeting the established targets for performance objectives and, at the end of the initial agreement period and each subsequent agreement period, to determine whether to recommend renewal of an institution's performance agreement subject to the approval of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.

Proposed law provides that in addition to all of the targets in a performance agreement during the first or any subsequent renewal period, no institution shall be granted or exercise autonomies, including authority to increase tuition, that are contingent on performance pursuant to present law unless, in the immediately prior academic year, it retained its first-year, full-time degree seeking students at a rate that is predictive of the mean graduation rate of each institution's peers as identified by the board in accordance with present law. Requires the board to collect and analyze data from institutions in Southern Regional Education Bd. member states to determine the appropriate retention rate for each class of institution.

(Adds R.S. 17:3139(G)(4))