

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 170

BY REPRESENTATIVE JONES AND SENATOR ALLAIN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges jointly to study the feasibility of offering community college services in the Greater St. Mary Parish Area and to determine how the state can best meet the educational needs of students and the economic and workforce development needs of this region of the state.

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(D)(2) of the Constitution of Louisiana provides, relative to public institutions of postsecondary education, that it is a power, duty, and responsibility of the Board of Regents to approve a proposed degree program, department of instruction, division, or similar subdivision; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(D)(3)(a) of the constitution further provides that it is a power, duty, and responsibility of the Board of Regents to study the need for and feasibility of creating a new institution of postsecondary education, which includes establishing a branch of such an institution or converting any nondegree granting institution to an institution which grants degrees; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(D)(3)(b) of the constitution specifies that if the creation of a new institution is proposed, the Board of Regents shall report its written findings and recommendations to the legislature within one year and specifies further that only after the report has been filed, or after one year from the receipt of a request for a report from the legislature if no report is filed, may the legislature take affirmative action on such a proposal and then only by law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house; and

WHEREAS, community college services, provided through the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, have proven effective in serving individuals and

communities by offering targeted academic programs, technical education, and occupational training programs designed to meet the state's workforce and economic development needs; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for increased access to public postsecondary two-year academic degree programs to meet the educational needs of students and the economic and workforce development needs in the Greater St. Mary Parish Area; and

WHEREAS, the provision of community college services in the Greater St. Mary Parish Area would provide access to community college opportunities and offerings to an area of the state which is currently underserved.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents and the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges jointly to study the feasibility of offering community college services in the Greater St. Mary Parish Area and to determine how the state can best meet the educational needs of students and the economic and workforce development needs of this region of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana further requests the Board of Regents to submit a written report of study findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Regents, the commissioner of higher education, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges, the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the director of the South Central Louisiana Technical College.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE