

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 182

BY REPRESENTATIVE NOWLIN AND SENATOR LONG

COLLEGES/COMMUNITY: Requests the Board of Regents to study the need, structure, and location of a community college in the Natchitoches area

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Board of Regents to work with the Board of Supervisors of  
3 Community and Technical Colleges, the Board of Supervisors for the University of  
4 Louisiana System, and Northwestern State University to study the feasibility of  
5 offering community college services to the Greater Natchitoches Region and to  
6 determine how the state can best meet the educational needs of students and the  
7 economic and workforce development needs of this region of the state.

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

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

17 WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(D)(3)(b) of the constitution specifies that if the  
18 creation of a new institution is proposed, the Board of Regents shall report its written  
19 findings and recommendations to the legislature within one year and specifies further that  
20 only after the report has been filed, or after one year from the receipt of a request for a report  
21 from the legislature if no report is filed, may the legislature take affirmative action on such

1 a proposal and then only by law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, community college services, provided through the Louisiana  
4 Community and Technical College System, have proven effective in serving individuals and  
5 communities by offering targeted academic programs, technical education, and occupational  
6 training programs designed to meet the state's workforce and economic development needs;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, there is a need for increased access to public postsecondary education  
9 two-year academic degree programs that meet the educational needs of students and the  
10 economic and workforce development needs in the Greater Natchitoches Region; and

11 WHEREAS, the availability of community college services in the Greater  
12 Natchitoches Region would provide access to these educational opportunities in an  
13 underserved area of the state; and

14 WHEREAS, the Board of Regents has adopted a policy under which all associate  
15 degree and certificate programs are to be removed from the four-year public institutions of  
16 postsecondary education in the state; and

17 WHEREAS, the capital outlay requirements of the state are such that the funds for  
18 the design and construction of a new community college are not available now nor are they  
19 expected to be in the foreseeable future; and

20 WHEREAS, it is critically important to maximize the cost-effectiveness of the  
21 proposed community college services, especially during this period of economic recession  
22 that is placing extreme pressure on the operating and capital outlay budgets of the state.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
24 urge and request that the Board of Regents work with the Board of Supervisors of  
25 Community and Technical Colleges, the Board of Supervisors for the University of  
26 Louisiana System, and Northwestern State University to study the feasibility of offering  
27 community college services to the Greater Natchitoches Region and to determine how the  
28 state can best meet the educational needs of students and the economic and workforce  
29 development needs of this region of the state.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include but not be limited to  
2 consideration of the potential use of physical facilities and other resources of Northwestern  
3 State University in the provision of the proposed community college services and  
4 identification of the role, scope, and authority of Northwestern State University in the  
5 planning and operation of the proposed community college if the resources of Northwestern  
6 State University are to be utilized in the development and operation of the proposed  
7 community college.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana further requests the  
9 Board of Regents to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the  
10 Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on Education, the member of the  
11 Senate representing Senate District 31, and the member of the House of Representatives  
12 representing House District 23 not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2012  
13 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
15 commissioner of higher education, the chairman of the Board of Regents, the president of  
16 the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, the president of the University of  
17 Louisiana System, the president of Northwestern State University, and the regional director  
18 of the Northwest Louisiana Technical College.

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#### 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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HCR No. 182

Requests that the Board of Regents work with the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, and Northwestern State University to study the feasibility of offering community college services to the Greater Natchitoches Region 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. Requests that the study include consideration of the potential use of facilities and resources of Northwestern State University in the provision of community college services and identification of the role, scope, and authority of the university in the planning and operation of the proposed community college if its resources are to be utilized in the development and operation of the proposed community college. Provides that the Board of Regents shall report to the House and Senate education committees and to the Senator representing Senate District 31 and the Representative representing House District 23 not later than 60 days prior to the 2012 R.S.