

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 182

BY REPRESENTATIVE NOWLIN AND SENATOR LONG

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents to 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.

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 also is a power, duty, and responsibility of the board 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 education two-year academic degree programs that meet the educational needs of students and the economic and workforce development needs in the Greater Natchitoches Region; and

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include but not be limited to consideration of the potential use of physical facilities and other resources of Northwestern State University in the provision of the proposed community college services and identification of the role, scope, and authority of Northwestern State University in the planning and operation of the proposed community college if the resources of Northwestern

State University are to be utilized in the development and operation of the proposed community college.

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE