

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 133

BY SENATOR BUFFINGTON

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES. Relative to the La. State University Shreveport Commitment Plan as unanimously endorsed by the LSU Board of Supervisors on April 27, 2012, provides legislative findings and for certain reports to the legislature, the legislative education committees, and the Board of Regents for the next three academic years.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To provide legislative findings relative to the Louisiana State University Shreveport  
3 Commitment Plan as unanimously endorsed by the Board of Supervisors of  
4 Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College on April 27,  
5 2012, to urge and request all public postsecondary education institutions in the  
6 region to fully cooperate and support plan implementation; and to specify that the  
7 Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical  
8 College shall make certain written reports to the legislature, the legislative education  
9 committees, and the Board of Regents for the next three academic years on its  
10 progress in plan implementation.

11 WHEREAS, Shreveport-Bossier is the third largest metropolitan area in Louisiana  
12 and deserves a strong, vibrant, comprehensive research university to meet the education,  
13 workforce, and economic development needs of the region; and

14 WHEREAS, many civic and business leaders in the region have expressed deep  
15 interest in exploring various methods for expanding the regional capacity for additional  
16 academic programs; and

17 WHEREAS, while current postsecondary programs at the technical and associate  
18 degree level are ample and diverse, there are still limited opportunities for comprehensive

1 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Northwest Louisiana; and

2 WHEREAS, Louisiana State University at Shreveport, as the area's urban university,  
3 is best positioned to serve regional needs through an expansion of current course offerings  
4 in targeted program areas; and

5 WHEREAS, Louisiana State University at Shreveport, in collaboration with  
6 colleagues at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport and  
7 Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, has developed the  
8 Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan for the continued growth of  
9 Louisiana State University at Shreveport; and

10 WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural  
11 and Mechanical College on April 27, 2012, unanimously endorsed the Louisiana State  
12 University Shreveport Commitment Plan and directed its implementation through close  
13 collaboration with all institutions in the Louisiana State University System thereby  
14 recognizing that all Louisiana State University entities have a stake in the successful  
15 development of Louisiana State University at Shreveport; and

16 WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan defines  
17 both a series of short-term initiatives designed to provide immediate impact from new  
18 program offerings combined with longer-term initiatives to grow selected graduate  
19 programs; and

20 WHEREAS, as institutional, regional, and state funding resources permit,  
21 investments should be made to further grow Louisiana State University at Shreveport into  
22 a strong urban research university with a mix of baccalaureate, master's, professional, and  
23 targeted doctoral programs, accompanied by strategic research endeavors that enhance  
24 economic development in the metropolitan area; and

25 WHEREAS, during this period of budget austerity, the implementation of the  
26 Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan presents a cost-effective,  
27 expeditious, and efficient way to address regional postsecondary education needs.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby find  
29 that the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan as adopted by the Board  
30 of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College on

1 April 27, 2012, can be a cost-effective, efficient, and immediate strategy for enhancing  
2 postsecondary education needs in the region, including raising the educational attainment  
3 of the population; improving the quality of life and economic well-being of Shreveport-  
4 Bossier residents; ensuring that students are provided the educational resources they need  
5 to have a reasonable chance for success in their academic pursuits; making optimal use of  
6 facilities, faculties, and other academic and fiscal resources associated with the public  
7 postsecondary institutions; and maintaining and growing foundation and alumni monies  
8 attained for the purpose of supporting Louisiana State University at Shreveport.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all public institutions of postsecondary  
10 education in the region and the Board of Regents are urged and requested to fully cooperate  
11 and support implementation of the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State  
13 University and Agricultural and Mechanical College shall report in writing to the legislature  
14 as provided by R.S. 17:771 and 772, the House Committee on Education and the Senate  
15 Committee on Education, and the Board of Regents two weeks after the end of each Fall and  
16 Spring semester for the next three academic years on its progress in implementing the  
17 Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan, which report shall include but not  
18 be limited to details on new programs offered and put into effect as well as student  
19 enrollment and completion data for such programs.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted  
21 to the presiding officer of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and  
22 Agricultural and Mechanical College, the president of the Louisiana State University  
23 System, the presiding officer of the Board of Regents, and the commissioner of higher  
24 education.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Thomas L. Tyler.

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DIGEST

Buffington

SCR No.

Provides legislative findings relative to the La. State University Shreveport Commitment Plan as unanimously endorsed by the LSU Board of Supervisors on April 27, 2012, requests all public postsecondary education institutions in the region to fully cooperate and support plan implementation, and specifies that the LSU Board of Supervisors shall make certain

written reports to the legislature, the legislative education committees, and the Board of Regents for the next three academic years on the progress of plan implementation.