

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY SENATOR NEVERS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents to study the feasibility of offering community college services on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, 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 non-degree 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 in this state 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 on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain to meet the educational needs of students and the economic and workforce development needs of the region; and

WHEREAS, the provision of community college services on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain will provide access to community college opportunities and offerings to a currently underserved area of the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents to study the feasibility of offering community college services on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, 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 its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education and House Committee on Education, not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2011 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of higher education, the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the regional director of the Northshore Technical College.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES