

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 61

BY SENATORS THOMPSON, KOSTELKA, RISER AND WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents to work with the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges to study the two-year college services offered to the greater northeast Louisiana 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 of Louisiana 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 or merging institutions; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(D)(3)(b) of the Constitution of Louisiana specifies that if the creation of a new institution or a merger 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 a 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 greater coordination and increased access to public postsecondary education two-year academic degree programs to meet the educational needs of students and the economic and workforce development needs in the greater northeast Louisiana area; and

WHEREAS, the provision of a more coordinated set of two-year college services in the greater northeast Louisiana area will provide access to improved opportunities and offerings to an under-served area of the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents and the Board of Supervisors for Community and Technical Colleges to study the two-year college services in the greater northeast Louisiana 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 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 2012 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, the chancellor of Louisiana Delta Community College, and the director of the Northeast Louisiana Technical College.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES