

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 75

BY SENATOR PEACOCK AND REPRESENTATIVE GLOVER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents to study how the state can best meet the legal education needs of students and the economic and workforce development needs of the northwest region, including meeting these needs through establishing a law school in the Shreveport-Bossier area.

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 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; and

WHEREAS, there is a great interest in establishing a law school in the Shreveport-Bossier area in order to meet not only the educational needs of students, but also the economic and workforce development needs of the region; and

WHEREAS, there are campuses of the Louisiana State University System, the Southern University System, and the University of Louisiana System already existing in the area; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative law school of the three university systems could capitalize on the best of all three systems and result in a school that is second to none in the state; and

WHEREAS, the northwest region of the state lacks a law school program and the provision of a juris doctor program in the Shreveport-Bossier area would provide access to an area of the state that is currently underserved.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents to study how the state can best meet the legal education needs of students and the economic and workforce development needs of the northwest region, including meeting these needs through establishing a law school in Shreveport-Bossier area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall consider whether any law school established pursuant to this study would best serve the needs of the area and the state by being affiliated solely with either the Louisiana State University System, the Southern University System, the University of Louisiana System, or any combination thereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education by not later than ninety days prior to the beginning of the 2020 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Regents, the commissioner of higher education, the president of the Louisiana State University System, the president of the Southern University System, and the president of the University of Louisiana System.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES