

Regular Session, 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 167

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

TUITION. Requests the Board of Regents to study the feasibility of delegating tuition-setting authority to the state's public postsecondary professional schools.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Board of Regents to study the feasibility, practicality, and
3 advisability of delegating tuition-setting authority to the state's public institutions
4 that provide professional programs.

5 WHEREAS, traditionally, state support for public postsecondary education has far
6 exceeded the amount charged to students in the form of tuition and fees, the harsh reality
7 imposed by the lingering economic recession has resulted in decreased state support for the
8 state's public postsecondary education institutions, including the professional schools; and

9 WHEREAS, while Louisiana's postsecondary students have historically benefitted
10 from low tuition rates compared to their counterparts throughout the region, current
11 enrollment patterns and economic circumstances dictate that this traditional funding
12 paradigm be reexamined and reassessed; and

13 WHEREAS, the ability of postsecondary institutions, especially the professional
14 schools, to make up the growing gap between state and student generated revenues is
15 impacted by constitutional and statutory requirements for legislative approval of any
16 increases in student tuition and fees; and

17 WHEREAS, the cost of professional programs varies widely based upon faculty
18 requirements and the type of training required for the student to successfully enter his chosen

1 field or to obtain professional licensure; and

2 WHEREAS, there is a growing national trend for states to deregulate the setting of
3 student tuition, thereby allowing public colleges, universities, and professional schools to
4 establish tuition rates that are responsive to market conditions and the needs of students; and

5 WHEREAS, it is logical to examine the process by which tuition is established for
6 the state's public professional schools, not only in the context of the appropriate ratio of state
7 to student support, but also considering student demand and market forces without losing
8 sight of the need for maximum student access and affordability.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
10 does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents to study the feasibility, practicality, and
11 advisability of delegating tuition-setting authority to the state's public institutions that
12 provide professional programs.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall submit a written
14 report of its findings and recommendations, including any legislation which may be required
15 to implement such recommendations, to the Senate Committee on Finance, the Senate
16 Committee on Education, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the House
17 Committee on Education, not later than March 1, 2013.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
19 chairman of the Board of Regents and the commissioner of higher education.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

Walsworth

SR No.

Requests the Board of Regents to study the feasibility, practicality, and advisability of delegating tuition-setting authority to the state's public institutions that provide professional programs.

Requires a written report be submitted to the Senate Committee on Finance, the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the House Committee on Education, not later than March 1, 2013.