

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 185

BY SENATOR BROOME

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents to implement Recommendations 10(C) and 13 of the Postsecondary Education Review Commission relative to the provision of equitable and sufficient funding necessary for the state's Historically Black Colleges and Universities to achieve their unique and important institutional mission.

WHEREAS, Act No. 309 of the 2009 Regular Session of the Legislature created the Postsecondary Education Review Commission to "review all aspects of postsecondary education in order to ensure that the enterprise is operating efficiently, effectively, and in a manner that best serves students, their families, and the state"; and

WHEREAS, this legislation also specified that the scope of such review would be comprehensive and include consideration of factors such as governance, facilities, programs, and funding; and

WHEREAS, during the course of their work, the commission made several recommendations with respect to the higher education funding formula, calling for an increased emphasis on institutional quality and performance; and

WHEREAS, while it is unarguably appropriate for the higher education funding formula to focus on quality and performance, it is equally logical and reasonable that the formula give due consideration to the levels of funding necessary for each postsecondary educational institution to achieve the desired goals; and

WHEREAS, unanimous Recommendations 10(C) and 13, as contained in the final report issued by the Postsecondary Education Review Commission, recognize and address the funding gap that exists between the state's Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other public postsecondary educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, Recommendation 10(C) calls for additional funding to be provided to the state's Historically Black Colleges and Universities until such funding gap is closed; and

WHEREAS, Recommendation 13 states the commission's belief in the educational value of students learning in diverse educational environments and in the unique and important mission of the state's Historically Black Colleges and Universities for "fostering and expanding educational access, excellence, and success for all students, especially African-Americans and disproportionate numbers of low-income, first generation students"; and

WHEREAS, Recommendation 13 further calls for the Board of Regents to recommend to the legislature actions that will set aside, within the higher education appropriations, a specific allotment of funds sufficient to enable the state's Historically Black Colleges and Universities to realize their important mission; and

WHEREAS, although the state's Historically Black Colleges and Universities have been and remain fully committed to educational quality and performance, it must be recognized that these institutions face a greater challenge in their efforts to meet newly established performance standards due to the historical funding inequities that were created through the funding formula for higher education and the method utilized to distribute additional funding made available outside of the formula.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents to implement Recommendations 10(C) and 13 of the Postsecondary Education Review Commission relative to the provision of equitable and sufficient funding necessary for the state's Historically Black Colleges and Universities to achieve their unique and important institutional mission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Regents, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System, and the commissioner of higher education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE