

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 134

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To establish the Medical Education & Research Finance Work Group to provide the legislature with findings and recommendations for a formula-based financing model for the funding of Louisiana's public institutions for graduate and professional medical education and biomedical and health-related research.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature, business community, and the public at-large have increasing expectations relating to the role of Louisiana's public institutions for graduate and professional medical education and biomedical and health-related research, hereinafter referred to as "institutions for medical education and research", as a consistent and reliable source for graduates necessary to meet the workforce needs of the state, as well as, for the development of innovative biomedical technologies and medical treatments to contribute to the health of all Louisianians; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana currently ranks in the bottom quartile among other states in terms of the supply of healthcare professionals according to surveys by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the American Association of Medical Colleges, as follows: forty-third in the number of primary care physicians, fortieth in the number of dentists, thirty-seventh in the number of nurse practitioners, and forty-fourth in the number of physician assistants; and

WHEREAS, the LSU Health Sciences Centers provide the majority of the graduate and professional degrees in health fields awarded by the state's institutions for medical education and research as evidenced by the fact that seventy percent of Louisiana's actively practicing physicians and over seventy-five percent of actively practicing dentists have trained at a Louisiana State University institution; and

WHEREAS, biomedical and health-related research is considered to be a mission critical component of an institution for medical education and research, and as such is a

mandatory requirement for accreditation by the accrediting bodies governing health-related educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, biomedical and health research is critical to addressing the financial and social burden of chronic disease in Louisiana's citizens; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, through multiple disciplines, contributes research vital to the health, well-being, and prosperity of all Louisianians; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 5(D) of the Constitution of Louisiana directs the Board of Regents to prepare and maintain a master plan for the state's public institutions of postsecondary education, which includes a formula for the equitable distribution of funding among those institutions; and

WHEREAS, no funding formula exists that accounts for the educational and research mission of the state's institutions for medical education and research; and

WHEREAS, the exclusion of the institutions for medical education and research from the formula used to fund the state's two-year and four-year degree-granting institutions makes it difficult to equitably balance the needs for financial support of all of the state's institutions; and

WHEREAS, the formula used for the funding of institutions which grant four-year and two-year degrees includes a large component that is based upon costs, enrollment, and performance measure statistics for each institution; and

WHEREAS, the cost of educating and training medical professionals is considerably higher than that for the education and training of professionals in other fields, with the cost of training physicians and dentists being particularly high, ranging from seventy-two thousand dollars to eighty thousand dollars per student, per year; and

WHEREAS, the tuition bases for the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Centers, Louisiana State University Pennington Biomedical Research Center, and the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center are all relatively small or nonexistent as compared to the size of their overall operations, which means that fluctuations in funding through the state general fund and other sources have dramatic effects on the financial viability of those institutions; and

WHEREAS, despite Louisiana's low rankings when compared to other states, enrollment at the LSU Health Sciences Centers since 2008 has increased an average of seventeen percent, without any increases in state funding to provide for the increases in student population; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive formula for the funding of institutions of medical education and research may allow for better decisions with respect to the finance of all of the state's public institutions of postsecondary education when the legislature considers the Board of Regent's budget recommendations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Medical Education & Research Finance Work Group, hereinafter referred to as "work group", to provide the legislature and the Board of Regents with findings and recommendations for a formula based financing model for the funding of Louisiana's public institutions for graduate and professional medical education and biomedical and health-related research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) A representative of the Board of Regents.
- (2) The president of Louisiana State University, or his designee.
- (3) A representative of the Louisiana State Medical Society.

(4) Four persons designated by the president of Louisiana State University who are employed by the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, including at least one employee of the Louisiana State University Pennington Biomedical Center and at least one employee of Louisiana State University Medical School Shreveport, and at least one employee of Louisiana State University Agricultural Center.

(5) The commissioner of administration, or his designee.

(6) The chair of the Louisiana Health Works Commission, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group shall collect and analyze data related to the cost and delivery of medical education and biomedical and health-related research in Louisiana and other states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group shall prepare findings and recommendations on a formula-based financing model, or components of such a model, to be used to provide funding for Louisiana's public institutions for graduate and professional medical education and biomedical and health-related research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group shall submit the findings and recommendations to the members of the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Education, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Finance no later than January 31, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall be responsible for designating staff to assist the work group in performing its duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Regents which shall be responsible for transmitting a copy to each of the offices, institutions, or organizations from which the members of the Medical Education and Research Finance Work Group are being selected or designated.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE