

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY REPRESENTATIVES OWEN, AMEDEE, EDMONSTON, MELERINE, TARVER,
AND TAYLOR

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents and each public postsecondary education management board to closely scrutinize the hiring of professors and instructors from foreign adversaries as defined by the Code of Federal Regulations for positions of scholarship and especially leadership at public postsecondary education institutions.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana, as a sovereign state and one of fifty recognized with enumerated and delegated powers, has responsibilities to both its citizens and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana fully supports academic and intellectual freedom and cherishes and protects free speech, free expression, and all liberties enshrined in our republic; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has traditionally welcomed undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students from around the globe to come to our state to learn, share ideas, and conduct world-changing research; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's public postsecondary education institutions are created and funded for the good of the citizens of Louisiana and the benefit of this great state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents and each public postsecondary education management board to closely scrutinize the hiring of professors and instructors from foreign adversaries as defined by the Code of Federal Regulations for positions of scholarship and especially leadership at public postsecondary education institutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recognizes that the United States of America has competitor and enemy nations in all corners of the world who wish to do harm to the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recognizes the significant threat potentially posed by agents and active and clandestine acts of competitor and threat nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature urges and requests these boards and leadership teams at institutions under their respective jurisdiction to be cognizant and aware of the presence of representatives of competitor and especially enemy nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature takes very seriously its role in maintaining oversight of public postsecondary education institutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature encourages great caution in the hiring of instructors and the tenure of educational leaders in our public institutions, especially in positions that are closely tied to research for national defense and the American intelligence community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature encourages our educational leaders to carefully guard our public institutions, the state of Louisiana, and ultimately the United States of America by scrutinizing the number of key positions offered to personnel from hostile nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature encourages national and international cooperation, especially with friendly, allied, and non-hostile nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recognizes that public universities should be places where first American and Louisiana citizens are educated in the sciences, engineering, medicine, business, art, mathematics, liberal arts, and advanced studies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature affirms the duties of public institutions in Louisiana to continue to pursue research, scholarship, and the free flow of ideas while encouraging higher education leaders to serve first the interests of the state of Louisiana and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Board of Regents and the commissioner of higher education for transmittal to the president of each public postsecondary education management system.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE