

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 96

BY REPRESENTATIVE BADON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request public postsecondary education institutions offering baccalaureate degrees to develop and promote plans that will enable students to complete such degrees in three years.

WHEREAS, the rising costs of postsecondary education are creating numerous detrimental effects including increasing the number of potential students for whom a college education is cost prohibitive, placing tremendous financial strain on students' family budgets, difficulties in balancing state budgets as the state's obligations increase, and the burgeoning debt with which many students are graduating; and

WHEREAS, postsecondary education policy makers should explore every available option for reducing the cost of postsecondary education so as to mitigate these detrimental effects; and

WHEREAS, one policy option that is worthy of serious attention is reducing the time it takes to complete a bachelor's degree to three years; and

WHEREAS, numerous factors can contribute to the possibility that a student can finish undergraduate studies in three years: high school Advanced Placement courses and other opportunities to start college with a substantial number of completed credits, summer and intersession course offerings at the institution, appropriate academic advising that begins very early in the student's academic career, and flexibility in graduation requirements that helps students avoid having to wait for particular courses to be offered; and

WHEREAS, though in most cases there are no legal or policy-based impediments preventing students in Louisiana public colleges or universities from completing an undergraduate degree in three years, there has not been a systematic effort to coordinate the factors that make doing so possible so as to facilitate and encourage students to avail themselves of this possibility; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's public colleges and universities should be tasked with the duty of analyzing, identifying, and implementing programs and processes that would make the three-year degree option available to and practical for more students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana public postsecondary education institutions offering baccalaureate degrees to develop and promote plans that will enable students to complete such degrees in three years.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE