

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY REPRESENTATIVES CARMODY AND HENRY BURNS

A RESOLUTION

To provide legislative findings relative to the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan as unanimously endorsed by the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College on April 27, 2012, to urge and request all public postsecondary education institutions in the region to fully cooperate and support plan implementation, and to specify that the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College shall make certain written reports to the legislature, the legislative education committees, and the Board of Regents for the next three academic years on its progress in plan implementation.

WHEREAS, Shreveport-Bossier is the third largest metropolitan area in Louisiana and deserves a strong, vibrant, comprehensive research university to meet the education, workforce, and economic development needs of the region; and

WHEREAS, many civic and business leaders in the region have expressed deep interest in exploring various methods for expanding the regional capacity for additional academic programs; and

WHEREAS, while current postsecondary programs at the technical and associate degree level are ample and diverse, there still are limited opportunities for comprehensive undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana State University at Shreveport, as the area's urban university, is best positioned to serve regional needs through an expansion of current course offerings in targeted program areas; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana State University at Shreveport, in collaboration with colleagues at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport and Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, has developed the

Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan for the continued growth of Louisiana State University at Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College on April 27, 2012, unanimously endorsed the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan and directed its implementation through close collaboration with all institutions in the Louisiana State University System thereby recognizing that all Louisiana State University entities have a stake in the successful development of Louisiana State University at Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan defines both a series of short-term initiatives designed to provide immediate impact from new program offerings combined with longer-term initiatives to grow selected graduate programs; and

WHEREAS, as institutional, regional, and state funding resources permit, investments should be made to further grow Louisiana State University at Shreveport into a strong urban research university with a mix of baccalaureate, master's, professional, and targeted doctoral programs, accompanied by strategic research endeavors that enhance economic development in the metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, during this period of budget austerity, the implementation of the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan presents a cost-effective, expeditious, and efficient way to address regional postsecondary education needs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby find that the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan as adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College on April 27, 2012, can be a cost-effective, efficient, and immediate strategy for enhancing postsecondary education needs in the region, including raising the educational attainment of the population; improving the quality of life and economic well-being of Shreveport-Bossier residents; ensuring that students are provided the educational resources they need to have a reasonable chance for success in their academic pursuits; making optimal use of facilities, faculties, and other academic and fiscal resources associated with the public postsecondary institutions; and maintaining and growing

foundation and alumni monies attained for the purpose of supporting Louisiana State University at Shreveport.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all public institutions of postsecondary education in the region and the Board of Regents are urged and requested to fully cooperate and support implementation of the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the authority of the Board of Regents to formulate and make timely revision of a master plan for postsecondary education and the process for so doing as provided by R.S. 17:3128 is hereby recognized, and the board is urged and requested to continue to apply its policies and procedures in evaluating the proposed role, scope, and mission statements of any public postsecondary education institution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College shall report in writing to the legislature as provided by R.S. 24:771 and 772, the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education, and the Board of Regents two weeks after the end of each Fall and Spring semester for the next three academic years on its progress in implementing the Louisiana State University Shreveport Commitment Plan, which report shall include but not be limited to details on new programs offered and put into effect as well as student enrollment and completion data for such programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the presiding officer of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, the president of the Louisiana State University System, the presiding officer of the Board of Regents, and the commissioner of higher education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES