

2022 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 184

BY SENATOR ALLAIN

POSTSECONDARY ED. Urges and requests certain public postsecondary entities to work with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security to develop a resilience center pilot program.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Board of Regents, the Louisiana Community and
3 Technical College System, L. E. Fletcher Technical Community College, and the
4 Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to work
5 together to develop a community college resilience center pilot program.

6 WHEREAS, Hurricane Ida made landfall as a Category 4 hurricane on August 29,
7 2021, causing catastrophic damage to the southeastern quadrant of our state; and

8 WHEREAS, in the aftermath, many citizens were without power, internet, and other
9 basic necessities for extended periods; and

10 WHEREAS, in response to hurricane impacts, several local businesses assisted their
11 communities with access to groceries, hot meals, internet, and other essential services; and

12 WHEREAS, impacted citizens, communities, and businesses have been slow to
13 recover from Hurricane Ida's effects; and

14 WHEREAS, public postsecondary education institution campuses may serve as
15 community anchors to improve a community's resilience and expedite recovery after both
16 man-made and natural disasters; and

17 WHEREAS, state and local emergency preparedness stakeholders should consider
18 ways to integrate the infrastructure, assets, and human capital of public postsecondary

1 education institutions into emergency preparedness and disaster recovery plans; and

2 WHEREAS, incorporating resilient building practices into public postsecondary
3 education institution campus master plans, retrofitting existing campus infrastructure for
4 greater resilience, and allocating funding to maintain and develop campus resilience will
5 benefit the people of the state of Louisiana; and

6 WHEREAS, designating recovery liaisons for public postsecondary education
7 institutions within the state's emergency preparedness and public postsecondary education
8 agencies will ensure all necessary partners and resources may be included in designing a
9 resilience center pilot program that may later be expanded to include all of Louisiana's
10 public postsecondary education campuses; and

11 WHEREAS, it is critical for public postsecondary education institutions and their
12 governing boards to seek guidance from state and local emergency personnel and agencies
13 regarding ways to continually improve their role in disaster recovery across the state; and

14 WHEREAS, with appropriate implementation, campus recovery may be linked to
15 strong community recovery.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Senate does hereby urge and
17 request the Board of Regents, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System,
18 L. E. Fletcher Technical Community College, and the Governor's Office of Homeland
19 Security and Emergency Preparedness to work together in developing and implementing a
20 resilience center pilot program, including a determination of the processes, partnerships,
21 resources, barriers, and opportunities involved in fully integrating public postsecondary
22 institutions into community disaster recovery, and identifying relevant stakeholders for
23 participation in the project.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
25 commissioner of Higher Education, the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical
26 College System, the chancellor of L. E. Fletcher Technical Community College, and the
27 director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

