



2019 Regular Legislative Session Adjourns Sine Die

Louisiana's 2019 Regular Legislative Session concluded today with the first reinvestment in base funding for higher education in a decade. The enrolled version of HB105 of the Regular Legislative Session appropriates \$1.062B in state general funds to higher education, representing an increase of \$47.2M above the existing operating budget.

In addition, several legislative measures affecting higher education were passed during this fiscal session including textbook affordability, dual enrollment, work-based learning, campus safety, financial aid and a variety of study resolutions.

"We are grateful to the Governor and legislature for providing the first significant investment in higher education in ten years," said Commissioner of Higher Education Kim Hunter Reed.

"I am proud that the postsecondary community sent a clear message this session - that we are reinvestment ready and have a strong vision for talent development in supporting our students. We look forward to advancing key legislation including affordable textbooks and developing a path to universal access to dual enrollment for high schoolers no matter their zip code," Reed said.

"Reaching our goal of doubling the number of credentials in Louisiana by 2030 will yield unprecedented levels of prosperity for our people. We appreciate the legislature and Governor for acknowledging and supporting this imperative."

BASE FUNDING INCREASES

- Higher education institutions and system funding is increased by \$9.2M above the FY19 funding level to help defray mandated costs increase of \$21M.
- TOPS funding is appropriated at \$311M, which represents an increase of \$15.2M to achieve full funding for the FY20. (Includes \$59.2M from the TOPS Fund)

ENHANCEMENTS

- \$5.9M LOSFA for loss of federal funds used to operate state programs;
- \$5M University of Louisiana at Monroe – Pharmacy program for accreditation needs;
- \$3.75M Louisiana State University Agricultural Center;
- \$2.5M Board of Regents – Nursing Capitation program;
- \$2.2M Louisiana State University Health Science Center – New Orleans for the Cancer Research Center;
- \$2M Southern University System Board of Supervisors;
- \$1M Pennington Biomedical Research Center for faculty recruitment;
- \$500K Southern University Agricultural Center;
- \$50K Louisiana Community and Technical College System Agriculture Technology Student Committee.

CAPITAL OUTLAY APPROPRIATIONS - HB2

- \$17.7M Deferred maintenance funding along with \$15M for campus demolition.

Below is a high-level summary of the legislation passed by the legislature during this session.

BOARD OF REGENTS 2019 LEGISLATION

"If higher education is to fulfill its mission of delivering opportunity and social mobility to all Louisianans, we must craft a new policy agenda that puts student outcomes at the center."

Kim Hunter Reed, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Higher Education



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SB 117

Sen. Walsworth

AFFORDABLE TEXTBOOKS

Increase college affordability and student success through the utilization of open education resources. Provide cost transparency to students when registering for classes by marking which courses exclusively use low- or no-cost course materials.

SB 243

Sen. Morrish

DUAL ENROLLMENT TASK FORCE

Create a task force to develop a statewide framework designed to provide equitable access to dual enrollment courses to eligible and interested high school juniors and seniors.

HB 294

Rep. Carpenter

SEXUAL ASSAULT CLIMATE SURVEYS

Amend current law to allow for increased response rates and broader utility of the anonymous sexual assault climate surveys administered by postsecondary campuses.

HB 562

Rep. Emerson
Sen. Morrish

PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS LAW UPDATE

Update the existing proprietary schools statute to eliminate ambiguity and redundancy, provide clarity and promote consumer protection.

HB 576

Rep. Zerinaue

LUMCON & LOUIS CARRYOVER AUTHORITY

Ensure cash flow stability for the LA Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) and the LA Library Network (LOUIS) by codifying the authority to carry over interagency transfers and self-generated revenue.

SCR 42

Sen. Appel
Rep. Brass

WORK-BASED LEARNING

Address workforce shortages and better prepare students for 21st century jobs by developing a framework to implement work-based learning opportunities by connecting industry with education.



Other Legislation Impacting Higher Education

Campus safety

- [HB443 by Rep. Nancy Landry](#) tightens hazing laws after The Max Gruver Act (HB78 of 2018 by Rep. Nancy Landry) was enacted last year, raising the criminal penalty for hazing from a misdemeanor to a felony. HB443 would penalize institutions and student organizations that fail to report hazing incidents as soon as practicable to law enforcement, and would grant campus police authority to investigate off-campus hazing incidents. The bill also requires the Board of Regents to standardize reporting forms and establish a policy relative to making certain information about hazing incidents public. The bill mandates that employees and volunteers of organizations participate in the same annual hazing prevention education that students currently complete. Lastly, the bill will have institutions document in writing all actions taken with regard to a report of an alleged hazing incident.

Campus operations

- [HB89 by Rep. McMahan](#) changes the name and expands the mission of Northwest LA

Technical College to a technical *community* college. This expansion provides for a comprehensive educational program and authorizes Northwest LTCC to grant certificates, diplomas, associate degrees, and associate transfer degrees. Northwest Technical College was the last stand alone technical college in the state.

- [HB357 by Rep. Jefferson](#) authorizes Grambling State University to redesignate Stadium and Facilities Drive, on the campus of Grambling State University, as "Doug Williams Drive. The bill also authorizes UL System Board to adopt a resolution to exercise exclusive jurisdiction, control, maintenance, or enforcement of traffic and parking regulations on any portion of a public road located within the boundaries of Grambling State University.

Financial Aid

- [SB203 by Sen. Walsworth](#) extends eligibility to students who graduate from the La. National Guard's Youth Challenge Program and earn a BESE-issued diploma or its equivalent. The bill expands postsecondary education options for these students to include a certificate, diploma, or associate or baccalaureate degree required for a high-demand, high-wage skilled career.

Other

- [SB54 by Sen. Mills](#) adds members to the existing Health Works Commission under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents. The Health Works Commission serves as a collaborative working group to integrate and coordinate resources relative to health care workforce development. The legislation corresponds with an appropriation of \$2.5M for nursing capitation around the state aimed at alleviating the nursing shortage.
- [HB62 by Rep. Steve Carter](#) is a constitutional amendment that allows for appropriations from the Education Excellence fund for certain schools, including public schools and laboratory schools approved by BESE and operated by public postsecondary education institutions.
- [HB239 by Rep. Jimmy Harris](#) requires that instruction in personal financial management for public high school students include information relative to student loans.
- [HB423 by Rep. Emerson](#) repeals the ability of a professional board or commission to revoke an occupational or professional license for failure to pay student loans.
- [HB620 by Rep. McMahan](#) provides alternate routes for entry into teacher education and certification programs.

Resolutions Impacting Higher Education

- [HCR9 by Rep. Hoffman](#) requests a study relative to allowing Anatomy and Physiology to count in addition to, rather than as a substitute for, Biology II for TOPS award qualification and high school graduation.
- [SR10 by Sen. Bishop](#) requests the Board of Regents to study the feasibility of updating TOPS reporting requirements.
- [HCR24 by Rep. Glover](#) studies the need for a Southern University Law Center in Shreveport.
- [SCR75 by Rep. Peacock](#) requests the Board of Regents to study the feasibility of establishing a law school - in any 4-year public postsecondary system or a combination thereof - in the Shreveport-Bossier area.
- [SCR77 by Sen. Bishop](#) requests the LA State Board of Nursing, SU School of Nursing, and SUNO to collaborate on the process and procedures required for the establishment of a nursing education program on the campus of SUNO.
- [SCR81 by Sen. Allain](#) requests the Board of Regents to create the Postsecondary Education Agriculture Technology Study Commission.
- [SCR92 by Sen. Chabert](#) creates the Higher Education Maritime Campus Consortium Taskforce and establishes reporting requirements.
- [HCR96 by Rep. Falconer](#) requests the Board of Regents to report to the legislature on student debt relief measures.
- [SR182 by Sen. Donahue/HR222 by Rep. Steve Carter](#) requests that the state Department of Education to establish the Louisiana Early Literacy Commission.
- [SR190 by Sen. Peacock](#) requests the Board of Regents to study the feasibility of establishing a dental school in northern Louisiana.
- [HR210 by Rep. Nancy Landry/SR206 by Sen. Morrish](#) requests that the Louisiana Community and Technical College System continue a pilot scholarship program for certain adults.