

SENATE BILL NO. 199

BY SENATOR BISHOP

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3138.7 and R.S. 36:651(T)(7), relative to postsecondary education; to  
3 establish the Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities under  
4 the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents; to provide relative to the membership,  
5 powers, duties, and functions of the council; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:3138.7 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 **§3138.7. Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

9 **A. The Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities**  
10 **(HBCUs) is hereby established under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents**  
11 **for the purpose of focusing on ways to strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to**  
12 **provide the highest quality education, increase opportunities for HBCUs to**  
13 **participate in and benefit from state programs, and ensure that Louisiana has**  
14 **the highest proportion of college graduates from HBCUs in the country. In**  
15 **consultation with the Southern University System and Grambling State**  
16 **University, the council shall provide guidance and advice to the commissioner**  
17 **of higher education and the Board of Regents regarding best practices to**  
18 **strengthen the capacity of Louisiana's HBCUs.**

19 **B. The council shall be composed of twenty-three members as follows:**

20 **(1) The commissioner of higher education, or his designee.**

21 **(2) The president of the Southern University System, or his designee.**

22 **(3) The president of the University of Louisiana System, or his designee.**

23 **(4) The president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College**  
24 **System, or his designee.**

25 **(5) The chancellor of Southern University at New Orleans, or his**  
26 **designee.**

27 **(6) The chancellor of Southern University at Shreveport, or his designee.**

1                   (7) The chancellor of the Southern University Law Center, or his  
2                   designee.

3                   (8) The chancellor of the Southern University Agricultural Research and  
4                   Extension Center, or his designee.

5                   (9) The president of Grambling State University, or his designee.

6                   (10) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
7                   Education, or his designee.

8                   (11) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development, or his  
9                   designee.

10                  (12) The executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, or  
11                  his designee.

12                  (13) The president of the Louisiana State Conference of the National  
13                  Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or his designee.

14                  (14) The president of the Urban League of Louisiana, or his designee.

15                  (15) The president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana,  
16                  or his designee.

17                  (16) The president of the Senate, or his designee.

18                  (17) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.

19                  (18) The chairman of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, or his  
20                  designee.

21                  (19) A member of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, appointed by  
22                  the chairman of the caucus. If the chairman of the caucus is a member of the  
23                  House of Representatives, the appointed member shall be a member of the  
24                  Senate. If the chairman of the caucus is a member of the Senate, the appointed  
25                  member shall be a member of the House of Representatives.

26                  (20) The president of Xavier University of Louisiana, or his designee.

27                  (21) The president of Dillard University, or his designee.

28                  (22) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, or his  
29                  designee.

30                  (23) The chairman of the House Committee on Education, or his

1 designee.

2 C. Members of the council shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing  
 3 authority and vacancies shall be filled in the manner of the original  
 4 appointment.

5 D. Members shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed  
 6 for expenses as provided by the appointing authority.

7 E.(1) The commissioner of higher education shall call the first meeting  
 8 of the council no later than September 1, 2018, and a chairman and a vice  
 9 chairman shall be elected from among the council's membership at this meeting.

10 (2) The council shall meet upon the call of the chairman, but not less than  
 11 twice annually.

12 F. The Board of Regents shall provide staff support to assist the council  
 13 in performing its duties and responsibilities.

14 G. The council shall:

15 (1) Advise the commissioner of higher education regarding methods to  
 16 enhance the capabilities of HBCUs to serve the needs of their students and the  
 17 state and methods whereby the state can better serve HBCUs. The council shall  
 18 also help identify methods to:

19 (a) Improve the identity, visibility, distinctive capabilities, and overall  
 20 competitiveness of HBCUs.

21 (b) Provide the highest quality education to the greatest number of  
 22 students.

23 (c) Promote centers of academic research and programmatic excellence.

24 (d) Strengthen the fiscal stability of HBCUs.

25 (e) Increase HBCUs contribution to the state's educational and  
 26 workforce goals.

27 (f) Elevate public awareness of the contributions and value of HBCUs.

28 (g) Encourage public-private investments in HBCUs.

29 (h) Engage the philanthropic, business, government, and education  
 30 communities in a dialogue regarding current and future HBCU programs and

1 initiatives.

2 (i) Foster enduring private-sector initiatives and public-private  
3 partnerships.

4 (j) Inform public policy discussions and practices by improving the  
5 availability and dissemination of high-quality information concerning HBCUs  
6 to elected officials and the public.

7 (k) Share best practices regarding administrative and programmatic  
8 processes.

9 (2) Strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to participate in federal and state  
10 programs by:

11 (a) Working with state and federal departments, agencies, and offices to:

12 (i) Identify programs and initiatives in which HBCUs may be either  
13 underserved or underused as a resource.

14 (ii) Encourage HBCUs to participate in state and federal programs and  
15 initiatives.

16 (iii) Establish methods to increase the capacity of HBCUs to effectively  
17 compete for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.

18 (b) Encouraging public-sector and private-sector involvement with  
19 HBCUs on such initiatives.

20 (3) Strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to fully participate in Louisiana's  
21 workforce and economic development activities by:

22 (a) Working with the Department of Economic Development to ensure  
23 full participation and inclusion of HBCUs at the inception stage and throughout  
24 implementation of economic development activities.

25 (b) Working with the Louisiana Workforce Commission to help identify  
26 educational programs to address workforce gaps.

27 (c) Requesting the Department of Economic Development and the  
28 Louisiana Workforce Commission to provide periodic updates to the council on  
29 their activities and initiatives.

30 Section 2. R.S. 36:651(T)(7) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

1 §651. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department of  
2 Education; boards, commissions, and agencies within Department of  
3 Education

4 \* \* \*

5 T. The following agencies are placed within the Department of Education and  
6 shall perform and exercise their powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities as  
7 provided by law:

8 \* \* \*

9 (7) The Advisory Council on Historically Black Colleges and Universities  
10 (R.S. 17:3138.7).

11 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
12 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
13 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
14 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
15 effective on the day following such approval.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_