

Fall 2018

## **F18RS SGR No. 3 (Higher Ed. Funding)**

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## STUDENT SENATE

F18RS

SGR No. 3

BY: SENATORS J. LANDRY, D'ESPALUNGUE, GREEN, MCKINNEY, AND RILEY

## A RESOLUTION

NOTING THE EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA TO ENSURE STABLE HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING AND URGING FURTHER EFFORTS TO ENSURE CONTINUED BUDGET STABILITY AND FULL HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

**PARAGRAPH 1:** WHEREAS, AFTER NUMEROUS SETBACKS AND THREE SPECIAL SESSIONS IN 2018 ALONE, THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA FINALLY AGREED ON A PARTIAL EXTENSION OF THE "FIFTH PENNY" OF STATE SALES TAX THROUGH 2025, ALLOWING FOR A "STABLE" HIGHER-EDUCATION BUDGET FOR AT LEAST THE CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR, AND

**PARAGRAPH 2:** WHEREAS, WHILE THIS AGREEMENT IS A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT THAT SHOULD HOLD OFF THE "FISCAL CLIFF" WELL INTO THE NEXT DECADE, IT ONLY PREVENTS FURTHER CUTS INSTEAD OF REVERSING PAST ONES, AND MULTIPLE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS HAVE ALREADY FELT IT NECESSARY TO RAISE STUDENT FEES TO PAY FOR INCREASING EMPLOYEE COSTS OF LIVING AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, AND

**PARAGRAPH 3:** WHEREAS, EVEN WITH THE AGREEMENT, LOUISIANA'S INVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION FALLS FAR SHORT OF THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL AVERAGE, MUCH LESS THE FUNDING THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE STATE'S COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO PERFORM AT THEIR FULL POTENTIAL, AND

**PARAGRAPH 4:** WHEREAS, STRUCTURAL FISCAL REFORMS, LONG URGED BY MANY ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM, ARE NECESSARY FOR THIS SHORTFALL TO BE MADE UP, AND

**PARAGRAPH 5:** WHEREAS, GIVEN THE STABILITY PROVIDED BY THE AGREEMENT AND THE GRAVITY OF THE STRUCTURAL FISCAL ISSUES – MANY OF WHICH DATE FROM NOT JUST THE POST-2008 BUDGET CUTS BUT ALSO THE PREVIOUS SERIES OF CUTS IN THE 1980S – IT IS ADVISABLE TO "FIX THE ROOF WHILE THE SUN IS SHINING," AND PROPERLY-DONE REFORMS WOULD BE WORTH DEMONSTRATING TO ONE'S CONSTITUENTS LEADING UP TO THE OCTOBER 2019 STATE ELECTIONS;

**PARAGRAPH 6:** THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE THAT THIS BODY NOTES WITH APPROVAL THE WORK DONE BY THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA TO ENSURE STABLE HIGHER-EDUCATION FUNDING, EVEN AT SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL RISK, AND ENCOURAGES THEM TO MAKE FURTHER EFFORTS TO

56 REVERSE THE POST-2008 DISINVESTMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION;  
57 AND

58  
59 **PARAGRAPH 7:** BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS BODY URGES THE  
60 GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE – ESPECIALLY THOSE  
61 LEGISLATORS WHO DID NOT VOTE FOR THE SALES TAX  
62 COMPROMISE – TO COME TOGETHER TO FORMULATE A  
63 REASONABLE AND PRODUCTIVE PACKAGE OF STRUCTURAL FISCAL  
64 REFORMS THAT CAN BE PASSED IN THE 2019 REGULAR SESSION OF  
65 THE LEGISLATURE AND THAT WOULD MAKE FURTHER  
66 INVESTMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND OTHER CRUCIAL AREAS  
67 POSSIBLE WITHOUT LAYING FURTHER BURDENS ON STUDENTS  
68 AND LOWER-INCOME FAMILIES; AND

69  
70 **PARAGRAPH 8:** BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS  
71 RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR JOHN BEL  
72 EDWARDS, ALL MEMBERS OF THE LOUISIANA STATE  
73 LEGISLATURE, STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT STEWART  
74 LOCKETT, AND STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTOR OF  
75 GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS SARAH PROCOPIO.

76  
77 **PARAGRAPH 9:** THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY A  
78 SIMPLE MAJORITY (ONE-HALF PLUS ONE) VOTE OF THE LSU  
79 STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY THE PRESIDENT, UPON  
80 LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION, OR IF VETOED BY THE  
81 PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE SENATE, ON  
82 THE DATE OF SUCH APPROVAL.

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85 **Approved:**

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88 \_\_\_\_\_  
89 **Christina Black**  
90 **Speaker of the Senate**

88 \_\_\_\_\_  
89 **Stewart Lockett**  
90 **Student Body President**

91  
92 **Date:**\_\_\_\_\_