

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP

Capital Outlay House Bill 2

- An overall \$17.7 million for higher education deferred maintenance funding along with \$15 million for campus demolition. The SU System allocation is \$3,465,500.
- \$10M DOTD Project Bridge and Erosion Stabilization Project
- \$500K for planning for the SUBR new Science building. The total cost of planning, design and construction is \$46 million.
- \$5.5M for Fisher Hall Renovations (SUBR)
- \$3.3M A.O. Williams Hall Renovations (SUAREC)
- \$6.3M Southern University Lab School Upgrades
- \$676k for Workforce, Training and Technology Center Planning (SUSLA)
- \$24M Disaster Relief Mega Shelter (SUAREC)
- \$8.4M for deferred maintenance along with \$3.4M for campus demolition projects

The 2019 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature concluded on June 6. The University worked with campus partners to advance the SU System's legislative priorities as well as tracked legislation affecting higher education and the medical marijuana initiative. Thanks to the support of Governor John Bel Edwards, and the Louisiana Legislature, the SU System was able to make significant progress towards **Fulfilling the Promise** of providing access and excellence to students and communities.

Below is a recap of the session based on our 2019 Legislative Priorities:

Continued Funding Stabilization (House Bill 105)

- Overall Funding for Louisiana Higher Education -- the overall base funding for higher education was increased for the first time in ten years. House Bill 105, which served as the Appropriations Bill this year, provides for **\$1.062 billion** in state general fund higher education. This increase is **\$47.2 million** above last year.
- **An additional \$5.2 million** for the Southern University System for accreditation needs

Equitable Land Grant Funding (House Bills 105 and 392)

- **An additional \$800K** for the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center

Assistance with Unfunded Mandates (House Bill 105)

- Higher education institutions and system funding is increased by **\$9.2 million** above the FY 19 funding level to help defray the **\$21 million** increase in mandated costs. The SU System's allocation is expected to be \$1,046,838.

Increased Go Grants (House Bill 105)

- Funding for Go Grants remains the same as the previous year, however, TOPS funding is appropriated at **\$311 million**, which represents an increase of **\$15.2 million** to achieve full funding for FY 20.



Selected Legislation/Resolutions impacting the SU System

SB 117 by Senator Mike Walsworth

PASSED

Proposed law provides for greater availability and use of affordable textbooks and other educational resources beginning Fall, 2020. The bill, signed by the Governor on yesterday, also provides for cost transparency to students when registering for classes by marking which courses exclusively use low- or no-cost course materials.

SB 243 by Senator Blade Morrish

PASSED

This bill provides for the development of a statewide framework for dual enrollment programs through the creation of a dual enrollment task force coordinated by the Board of Regents.

HB 294 by Rep. Barbara Carpenter

PASSED

This bill provides for anonymous sexual assault climate surveys at public postsecondary educational institutions. The legislation was created previously to allow for annual surveys. This bill changes the annual requirement to every two years.

HB 443 by Rep. Nancy Landry

PASSED

This bill tighten hazing laws after The Max Gruver Act was enacted last years, raising the criminal penalty for hazing from a misdemeanor to a felony. HB 443 would penalize institutions and student organizations that fail to report hazing incidents as soon as practicable to law enforcement, and would grant campus policy 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.

HCR 54 by Rep. Cedric Glover

PASSED

Requests that Board of Regents study how to meet education, economic, and workforce needs of the Shreveport-Bossier region, including through establishment of Southern University Law Center campus in Shreveport.

HCR 96 by Rep. Reid Falconer (formerly HB 121)

PASSED

This bill requires public postsecondary education management boards to establish policies for forgiveness of unpaid student tuition and fees of certain students who have resigned and seek reenrollment. The resolution now requests the Board of Regents to report to the legislature on student debt relief measures.

SCR 77 by Senator Wesley Bishop

PASSED

Requests the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, Southern University School of Nursing, and Southern University at New Orleans to collaborate on the process and procedures required for the establishment of a nursing education program on the campus of Southern University at New Orleans.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA LEGISLATION

HB 491 by Rep. Clay Schexnayder

PASSED

This bill provides for the regulation of industrial hemp.

HB 358 by Rep. Ted James

PASSED

This bill provides relative to marijuana for therapeutic use.



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Office of External Affairs, 2019