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Historically Black colleges at risk of losing millions



Students walk to class at Southern University in Baton Rouge.

STAFF FILE PHOTO BY JAVIER GALLEGOS

Trump's anti-DEI order means redistribution of money in La.

BY HALEY MILLER
Staff writer

As President Donald Trump's administration moves to eliminate diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives at U.S. universities, Louisiana's higher education board is cutting an incentive that encouraged universities to graduate more minority students.

The change means the state's historically Black colleges and universities stand to lose millions of dollars.

"I'm not going to lie, because the numbers are out there," interim Southern University system President Orlando McMeans said. "It will put us in the red as it relates to funding for 2026-27."

The Louisiana Board of Regents doles out money from

Institutions with greatest losses

The top five public universities and colleges in Louisiana that lost the most in total estimated formula calculations for fiscal year 2025 after the underrepresented minority metric was removed.

| Institution | Dollars WITH underrepresented minority completers | Dollars WITHOUT underrepresented minority completers | Loss |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--------------|
| Southern University and A&M College | \$24,947,310 | \$23,878,973 | ▼\$1,068,337 |
| Grambling State University | \$16,403,133 | \$15,503,849 | ▼ \$899,284 |
| Southern University in New Orleans | \$6,089,260 | \$5,791,344 | ▼ \$297,916 |
| Baton Rouge Community College | \$20,643,638 | \$20,360,457 | ▼ \$283,181 |
| Delgado Community College | \$32,692,613 | \$32,485,279 | ▼ \$207,334 |

Source: Louisiana Board of Regents

Staff graphic

the Legislature to the state's public colleges and universities based on a complex formula. For the new fiscal year that starts July 1, that formula

will no longer include an "underrepresented minority completer" metric, which rewarded institutions for graduating students of races with lower

graduation rates than the rest of the population.

Kim Hunter Reed, [See MILLIONS, page 7A](#)



Senate expands death penalty eligibility

Change prompted by mall shooting

BY MEGHAN FRIEDMANN
Staff writer

The Senate altered a bill Wednesday night to expand who can be charged with first-degree murder in Louisiana, citing April's mass shooting at the Mall of Louisiana as the reason for the change.

With little debate and no opposition, the chamber approved an amendment to House Bill 102 that revises the definition of first-degree murder, an offense that can carry the death penalty, to include killings carried out in public places where at least three people were at risk of great harm.

It would further add killings committed with illegally possessed firearms and those committed by defendants out on bail, probation or parole. Louisiana has few restrictions on who can carry guns, but it is generally illegal for people with felony convictions to do so.

In a statement, Gov. Jeff Landry, who successfully pushed to resume executions in Louisiana after a 15-year hiatus, called the amendment to HB102 "absolutely necessary" and said it would bring the state's criminal justice system "one step closer" to delivering "true justice" for victims.

"I promised the people of this State and the city of Baton Rouge

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U.S. jet fires on Iranian oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman

Trump seeks to pressure Tehran into reaching a deal

BY JOSHUA BOAK, BEN FINLEY and RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military fired on an Iranian oil tanker

Wednesday as President Donald Trump sought to pressure Tehran into reaching a deal to end the war. The Islamic Republic said it was reviewing the latest American proposals.

A fighter jet shot out the rudder of the tanker in the Gulf of Oman as it tried to breach the American blockade of Iran's ports, U.S. Central Command said

in a social media post.

The attack occurred as Iran and the U.S. are officially in a ceasefire. Trump threatened Tehran with a new wave of bombing if a deal is not reached that includes opening the critical Strait of Hormuz.

Trump posted on social media that the two-month war could soon end and that oil and natural

[Trump administration sows confusion on Iran strategy. PAGE 5A](#)

gas shipments disrupted by the conflict could restart. But he said that depends on Iran accepting a reported agreement that the president did not detail.

Meanwhile, Israel struck Beirut's southern suburbs for the first time since a ceasefire between

Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group was announced April 17. Fighting has continued since then in southern Lebanon.

Trump insisted Wednesday that Iranian officials want to end the war.

"We're dealing with people that want to make a deal very much,

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