
The original instrument was prepared by Cheryl M. Serrett. The following digest, which does not constitute a part of the legislative instrument, was prepared by Martha Hess.

DIGEST

SB 452 Reengrossed 2018 Regular Session Morrish

Present law provides for high school career major curriculum and graduation requirements.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally provides that Physics may be counted for credit as a science course to satisfy the high school career major graduation requirements.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), including providing for award amounts, initial eligibility requirements, and continuation requirements. Present law provides for the administration of TOPS.

Present law provides two separate core curriculum requirements, based on the type of award the student is seeking. Proposed law retains present law but allows AP Physics I and AP Physics II to count as individual classes in the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors students core curriculum. Additionally provides Physics may count in the TOPS-Tech core curriculum.

Proposed law clarifies that the administering agency shall adopt rules as provided by the Administrative Procedure Act.

Present law provides that course equivalences shall be set by the administering agency upon prior approval by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Proposed law amends present law to provide that BESE is consulted with on the changes but is not required to approve the changes.

Present law provides that ACT and SAT tests taken after July first of the student's high school graduation year may not be considered when determining eligibility. Proposed law allows tests taken after the national April testing date in the year of the applicant's high school graduation provided that:

- (1) The administering agency determines that the applicant was prevented from taking the test on or prior to the April testing date of the year of the applicant's graduation due to circumstances beyond the immediate control of the student which were attributable to the administration of the test.
- (2) The applicant's qualifying score is obtained on an authorized testing date prior to August first of the year of the applicant's graduation.

Present law provides that when granting an award to an applicant whose qualifying test score is

considered by the agency pursuant to present law, the agency shall reduce the time period of eligibility for the award by one semester or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters. Proposed law provides that when granting an award to an applicant pursuant to proposed law, the agency shall not reduce the time period of eligibility.

Present law provides that tax records are confidential. Present law additionally provides that certain taxpayers' information may be shared with the office of student financial assistance to help determine the students' eligibility for TOPS.

Proposed law retains present law. Further provides the tax information may also be used by the office to determine past TOPS recipient employment and residency status in Louisiana.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(c), 5025(3)(c), 5026(A)(intro para) and (A)(3)(b), 5061, 5062(C)(intro para), and (C)(1), R.S. 39:98.3(D), and R.S. 47:1508(B)(17) and 5062(C)(5))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Authorizes that ACT and SAT tests taken after the national April testing date may be considered when determining eligibility provided that the applicant was prevented from taking the test on or prior to April due to circumstances beyond the immediate control of the student and that the applicant's qualifying score is obtained prior to August first.
2. Provides that when granting an award to an applicant pursuant to proposed law the agency shall not reduce the time period of eligibility.