

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 482

BY REPRESENTATIVE TURNER

TOPS: Revises the initial and continuing eligibility requirements for a TOPS-Tech award and provides for the award amount at public colleges and universities

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5027(A)(1) and 5042(1) through (3) and to enact R.S.
3 17:5002(D)(1)(c) and 5024(D), relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for
4 Students; to revise award amounts at certain institutions; to revise criteria for initial
5 and continuing eligibility for certain students; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:5027(A)(1) and 5042(1) through (3) are hereby amended and
8 reenacted and R.S. 17:5002(D)(1)(c) and 5024(D) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §5002. Awards and amounts

10 * * *

11 D.(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection, a student who is
12 eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter and who is enrolled:

13 * * *

14 (c) In an eligible program at a public college or university, notwithstanding
15 any provision of this Subsection to the contrary, shall be awarded by the state either
16 an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the award amount for
17 that program at that college or university during the 2025-2026 academic year or
18 four thousand five hundred dollars, whichever is greater. The provisions of this
19 Subparagraph are applicable to students enrolling as first-time freshmen during or
20 after the 2026-2027 academic year.

21 * * *

1 §5024. Academic requirements

2 * * *

3 D.(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section to the contrary, a
4 student who is otherwise eligible for a TOPS-Tech award pursuant to this Chapter
5 shall qualify for the award if he meets at least two of the following requirements as
6 determined by the administering agency:

7 (a) Attainment of a minimum grade point average on the core curriculum as
8 provided in Subsection A of this Section.

9 (b) Attainment of a minimum ACT score as provided in Subsection B of this
10 Section.

11 (c) Successful completion of either at least nine credit hours of early college
12 credit, which may be attained through academic or technical dual enrollment courses,
13 or equivalent validated skills and learning measures as approved by the Statewide
14 Articulation and Transfer Council.

15 (2) The provisions of Paragraph (1) of this Subsection are applicable to
16 students enrolling in an eligible college or university as first-time freshmen during
17 or after the 2026-2027 academic year.

18 * * *

19 §5027. Postsecondary institution enrollment

20 A.(1)(a) Except as otherwise provided by this Section, to be eligible for an
21 award pursuant to this Chapter, the student shall enroll in an eligible college or
22 university as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer
23 semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the
24 student graduated from high school.

25 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph,
26 a student who is otherwise eligible for a TOPS-Tech award pursuant to this Chapter
27 may defer his award acceptance and shall retain his award eligibility if he enrolls as

TOPS-Tech, continuing eligibility

Present law provides that to maintain eligibility for TOPS-Tech, a student must:

- (1) Make steady academic progress as defined by the administering agency, earning not less than the minimum hours required for full-time standing, and maintain continuous enrollment as a full-time student. Proposed law allows part-time enrollment.
- (2) Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale. Proposed law lowers the minimum GPA from 2.50 to 2.00.

(Amends R.S. 17:5027(A)(1) and 5042(1)-(3); Adds R.S. 17:5002(D)(1)(c) and 5024(D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Provide that the award amount is either \$4,500 or the 2025-2026 academic year award amount, whichever is greater, and apply this revised award amount to students enrolled in an eligible program at any public college or university (not just an LCTCS institution).
2. Allow TOPS-Tech-eligible students to defer their award and maintain eligibility if they enroll in any public college or university (not just an LCTCS institution) prior to turning 25.