
DIGEST

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HB 194 Original

2017 Regular Session

Reynolds

Abstract: Raises the minimum GPA required for initial eligibility for a TOPS Opportunity Award from 2.50 to 3.00; provides for exceptions to enrollment requirements.

Initial Eligibility Requirements – GPA

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as a program of merit scholarships for students attending certain postsecondary education institutions who meet specific initial eligibility requirements pertaining to grade point average (GPA), ACT score, and core curriculum requirements and certain other qualifications. For initial award eligibility, requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 for both a TOPS-Tech Award and an Opportunity Award and a 3.00 for both a Performance Award and an Honors Award. Increases, effective with students graduating from high school in the 2020-2021 school year, the minimum GPA for initial eligibility for a Performance Award from 3.00 to 3.25 and for an Honors Award from 3.00 to 3.50.

Proposed law raises the minimum GPA requirement for initial eligibility for the Opportunity Award from 2.50 to 3.00 and is applicable to students graduating from high school during or after the 2020-2021 school year.

Initial and Continuing Eligibility Requirements – Enrollment

Present law:

- (1) Relative to initial eligibility, requires a student to enroll as a first-time college freshman not later than the semester immediately following the first anniversary of high school graduation.
- (2) Relative to continuing eligibility, requires a student to maintain continuous enrollment.
- (3) Authorizes the administering agency to grant exceptions to these requirements for cause.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that:

- (1) The administering agency shall establish by rule a procedure for requesting an exception to present law requirements.
- (2) Specifies that the causes for which enrollment exceptions are granted include entry into the workforce.

- (3) Provides that the maximum length of an extension granted for entering the workforce is five years.

Proposed law is applicable to students graduating from high school during or after the 2016-2017 school year.

(Amends R.S. 17:5024(A) and (B); Adds R.S. 17:5024.1 and 5062(A)(3); Repeals R.S. 17:5024(C))