

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 37

BY REPRESENTATIVES MCMAHEN, AMEDEE, BRASS, EDMONDS, FREEMAN,  
FREIBERG, JEFFERSON, CHARLES OWEN, AND THOMAS

TOPS: Provides that the annual amount of a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award at Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College shall match the annual award amount at other technical community colleges

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3233(E), relative to Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College;  
3 to provide for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award amount for  
4 students enrolled in the college; to provide that the award amount shall be equal to  
5 the award amount at other technical community colleges; to provide for applicability;  
6 and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3233(E) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §3233. Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College; mission, management,  
10 and operation; Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award amounts

11 \* \* \*

12 E. Any student who is eligible for a Taylor Opportunity Program for  
13 Students award pursuant to Chapter 50 of this Title and attends Northwest Louisiana  
14 Technical Community College shall be awarded by the state an amount determined  
15 by the administering agency to equal the award amount for technical community  
16 colleges pursuant to R.S. 17:5002.

17 Section 2. The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to Taylor Opportunity  
18 Program for Students awards granted during the 2020-2021 academic year and thereafter.

1 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
2 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
3 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
4 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
5 effective on the day following such approval.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 37 Reengrossed

2020 Regular Session

McMahan

**Abstract:** Provides that the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award amount at Northwest La. Technical Community College shall be the same as the award amount at other technical community colleges.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), a program of merit scholarships awarded to students attending certain postsecondary education institutions who meet certain academic and other qualifications. Present law fixes the award amount for a given institution at the amount of the tuition charged by that institution during the 2016-17 academic year; therefore, the award amount at Northwest La. Technical Community College, which was converted from a technical college to a technical community college pursuant to Act No. 287 of the 2019 R.S., remains fixed at the lower tuition amount it charged during that academic year.

Proposed law provides that the TOPS award amount for students at Northwest La. Technical Community College shall be equal to the award amount for technical community colleges pursuant to present law; in other words, proposed law increases this particular college's award amount to match the amount set for its current peer institutions based on the tuition amount they charged in 2016-17.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:3233(E))