TOPS: Lowers the minimum ACT score required for initial qualification for a TOPS-Tech Award from 17 to 15

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5024(B) and to enact R.S. 17:5024.1, relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to lower the minimum ACT score required for initial qualification for a TOPS-Tech Award; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
Section 1. R.S. 17:5024(B) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:5024.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:
§5024. Academic requirements
B.(1) Except as otherwise provided by R.S. 17:5024.1, a this Subseetion, a student shall earn the following minimum test scores for the respective awards:
(a) (1) For an Opportunity Award, a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT which is at least equal to or higher than the state's average composite score, truncated to a whole number, reported for the prior year but never less than twenty or an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such test or on the SAT.
(b) (2) For a Performance Award, a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT of twenty-three or higher or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised version of such test or on the SAT.
(e) (3) For an Honors Award, a score of twenty-seven or higher on the 1990 version of the ACT or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised version of such test or on the SAT.
(d) (4) For a TOPS-Tech Award, a composite score on the specified ACT of seventeen fifteen or higher or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised version of such test or on the SAT. The student may, as an alternative requirement, have attained a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system.
(2)(a) For a student who graduated prior to the 2010-2011 sehool year, the ACT WorkKeys system is not an alternative assessment for establishing eligibility for a TOPS-Teeh Awart.
(b) For a student who graduated prior to the 2000-2001-sehool year, the minimum ACT seore for a TOPS-Teeh Award is nimeteen.
§5024.1. Academic requirements; exceptions
Exceptions to requirements for a TOPS-Tech Award provided in R.S. 17:5024(B)(4) are as follows:
(1)(a) For a student who graduated during or after the 2000-2001 school year and prior to the 2021-2022 school year, the minimum ACT score for a TOPS-Tech Award is seventeen.
(b) For a student who graduated prior to the 2000-2001 school year, the minimum ACT score for a TOPS-Tech Award is nineteen.
(2) For a student who graduated prior to the 2010-2011 school year, the ACT WorkKeys system is not an alternative assessment for establishing eligibility for a TOPS-Tech Award.

## 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)]

HB 536 Original 2022 Regular Session Cox
Abstract: Lowers the minimum ACT score required for initial qualification for a TOPS-Tech Award from 17 to 15 .

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as a merit scholarship program for students meeting specific initial eligibility requirements, including attainment of a minimum ACT score, which varies by award level.

Present law, for initial qualification for a TOPS-Tech Award, requires a minimum ACT score of 17. Proposed law, applicable to students graduating from high school during or after the 2021-2022 school year, lowers this score from 17 to 15.
(Amends R.S. 17:5024(B); Adds R.S. 17:5024.1)

