

SENATE SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS

SB 204

2023 Regular Session

Hewitt

KEYWORD AND SUMMARY AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

POSTSECONDARY ED. Provides relative to the M.J. Foster Promise Award program.
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SUMMARY OF HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE SENATE BILL

1. Make technical changes.

DIGEST OF THE SENATE BILL AS RETURNED TO THE SENATE

SB 204 Engrossed

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Present law provides for the M.J. Foster Promise Award program which provides a financial award towards the costs of tuition and required fees to certain students who enroll in programs to pursue an associate degree or shorter-term postsecondary credential required for certain high-demand, high-wage occupations aligned to Louisiana's workforce priorities.

Proposed law allows the award to be used for mandatory books and instructional materials.

Present law provides a maximum annual award amount for students attending full-time. Further requires an award to students attending less than full-time to be an amount proportional to the hours the student is enrolled.

Proposed law allows the administering agency to set the reduced award amount that shall be awarded to students attending part-time.

Present law provides for award to be applied after all federal, state, and institutional aid is applied ("last dollar").

Proposed law provides that the initial award payment is to be applied before any federal, state, and institutional aid is applied but limits the award to tuition, fees, and mandatory books and instructional materials costs ("first dollar"). Retains requirement for "last dollar" application for subsequent award payments. Specifies that federal financial aid shall not include funding from student loans, work-study, or the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Present law requires an eligible student to have applied for federal student aid or demonstrate ineligibility for federal aid.

Proposed law allows students enrolling in programs that do not qualify for federal student aid to not be required to apply for the aid. Further allows the administering agency to provide by rule alternative methods to establish need if an applicant is unable to complete an application for federal student aid due to extenuating circumstances as defined by the agency. Also, allows an eligible student to receive one award payment prior to completing the federal student aid application.

Present law requires for initial eligibility for a student to agree to annually perform at least twenty hours of community service or participate in a program-related apprenticeship, internship, or mentorship and to certify completion of the activity each year.

Proposed law removes the initial and continued eligibility requirement for community service or program related apprenticeship, internship, or mentorship.

Present law provides for an advisory council and a working group, both of which are comprised of many of the same members.

Proposed law removes the working group and places the responsibility of the working group into the responsibilities of the advisory council.

Present law provides relative to the funding of the program. Further provides if the available funding is not sufficient to fully fund all eligible award recipients that the monies be provided on a first come, first served basis, with priority given to previous award recipients who have met eligibility requirements and who are continuing in a qualified program for which they were previously enrolled.

Proposed law provides that if the available funding is not sufficient to fully fund all award recipients, awards will first be provided to previous award recipients who meet continuation eligibility requirements and who are continuing in a qualified program and then to other eligible students enrolled in a program as funds are available.

Present law requires the administering agency to adopt regulations and guidelines for the distribution and allocation of monies appropriated for the program and subject to approval by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB).

Proposed law limits JLCB approval to initial regulations and guidelines.

Present law provides for coordination with other state agencies and requires memorandums of understanding (MOU) between the administering agency and the Department of Revenue, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and the Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

Proposed law adds residency information to the MOU with the Department of Revenue. Further, requires an MOU between the administering agency and the Department of Children and Family Services and the La. Department of Health to help verify if the student is eligible for certain aid as a proxy to demonstrate income requirements.

Present law provides for a reporting system and provides for certain information to be reported, including demographic data of students.

Proposed law expands the data that shall be collected and reported on by the administering agency.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:3047(B)(1), (C)(1)(a), (D), and (E)(1), 3047.2(A)(9), 3047.4(B) and (D)(3), 3047.6(A) and (B), and 3047.7(A)(2) and (B)(2); adds R.S. 17:3047.1(G); repeals R.S. 17:3047.2(A)(12) and 3047.3(A)(9))

LG Sullivan
Senate Counsel