

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 314

BY SENATOR BARROW

WOMEN. Provides tuition and fee exemptions at public postsecondary education institutions for Louisiana women of a certain age. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT
2 To enact R.S. 17:1689, relative to tuition and fee exemptions at public postsecondary
3 education institutions; to exempt women based on age; to provide for eligibility
4 criteria; to provide for duration of such exemptions; to provide for verification; to
5 provide for definitions; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:1689 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **§1689. Tuition and fee exemption; women age twenty-six to forty-five;**
10 **eligibility; duration; definitions**

11 **A. Beginning with the Fall 2024 academic semester or session, as**
12 **applicable, any qualified person as defined in Subsection B of this Section who**
13 **is eligible for admission and enrollment in a public postsecondary education**
14 **institution in Louisiana shall be admitted and enrolled in such institution**
15 **without the payment of any tuition or mandatory fee amount as long as such**
16 **person meets the academic standards and complies with the rules and**
17 **regulations of the institution required for enrollment and continued attendance**

1 **as a full-time student. Such exemption shall exist for such person for the length**
 2 **of time required for a full-time student to obtain a baccalaureate or other**
 3 **undergraduate degree or completion certificate as offered by such institution,**
 4 **as applicable, or until the person's forty-sixth birthday, whichever occurs first.**

5 **B.(1) For purposes of this Section, the term "person" shall mean a**
 6 **woman who is at least twenty-six years old and under the age of forty-six and**
 7 **has been domiciled in Louisiana for a minimum of five years prior to applying**
 8 **for the exemption as provided by this Section.**

9 **(2) For purposes of this Section, "tuition and mandatory fee amounts"**
 10 **shall mean those tuition and fee amounts payable by the state on behalf of a**
 11 **student who receives an award pursuant to the Taylor Opportunity Program**
 12 **for Students.**

13 **C. For purposes of this Section, the age and domiciliary status of any**
 14 **woman eligible to receive the exemption as provided in this Section shall be**
 15 **verified by voter registration records prior to the person initially receiving the**
 16 **exemption.**

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Frances Aucoin.

SB 314 Original

DIGEST
2024 Regular Session

Barrow

Proposed law provides that beginning with the Fall 2024 academic semester or session, as applicable, a qualified person as defined in proposed law who is eligible for admission and enrollment in a public postsecondary education institution in Louisiana shall be admitted and enrolled in such institution without the payment of any tuition or mandatory fee amount as long as such person meets the academic standards and complies with the rules and regulations of the institution required for enrollment and continued attendance as a full-time student. Provides that the exemption shall exist for the length of time required for a full-time student to obtain a baccalaureate or other undergraduate degree or completion certificate as offered by such institution, as applicable, or until the person's 46th birthday, whichever

occurs first.

Proposed law defines a "qualified person" as a woman who is at least 26 years old and under the age of 46 who has been domiciled in Louisiana for a minimum of 5 years prior to applying for the exemption. Provides that "tuition and mandatory fee amounts" shall mean those tuition and fee amounts payable by the state on behalf of a student who receives a TOPS award. Requires verification of age and domiciliary status by voter registration records prior to such person initially receiving the exemption.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:1689)