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DIGEST

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HB 548 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Amedee

**Abstract:** Subjects students who complete approved home study programs and satisfy TOPS core curriculum and GPA requirements to the same ACT requirements as graduates of public and approved nonpublic high schools.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as a merit scholarship program for students who graduate from a La. public high school or approved nonpublic high school and meet specific initial eligibility requirements, including the following academic requirements, which vary depending on award level:

- (1) Successful completion of a specific high school core curriculum.
- (2) Attainment of a minimum grade point average on such curriculum.
- (3) Attainment of a minimum ACT score.

Present law provides alternative eligibility requirements for other students, including those who complete approved home study programs and are exempt from the requirements provided in (1) and (2) above but must attain a higher ACT score.

Proposed law instead provides that home study students can either meet the criteria in (1) through (3) above or the higher ACT requirement to qualify for TOPS. Applicable to those initially qualifying for the 2024-2025 award year or thereafter.

(Amends R.S. 17:5029(B)(3)(a); Adds R.S. 17:5029(B)(3)(b)(iv))