

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS****HB 728****2024 Regular Session****Davis**

HIGHER EDUCATION: Lowers minimum age for eligibility for the M.J. Foster Promise Program from 21 to 17 and phases in this age change over a period of four award years

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Reinstates present law provision requiring an award recipient to have no conviction for any crime of violence.
2. Phase in the lowering of the age from 21 to 17 over four award years.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

Present law provides for the M.J. Foster Promise Program, a financial assistance program for students attending a two-year public postsecondary education institution or proprietary school who are enrolled in certain qualified programs. Provides for specific initial eligibility requirements, including being at least 21 years old. Proposed law lowers the minimum age from 21 to 17 and phases in this age change by providing that a student be at least:

- (1) Age 20 in the 2024-2025 award year.
- (2) Age 19 in the 2025-2026 award year.
- (3) Age 18 in the 2026-2027 award year.
- (4) Age 17 in the 2027-2028 award year and thereafter.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:3047.2(A)(1))