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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

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DIGEST

SB 27 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Talbot

Present law authorizes a nonrefundable tax credit for donations a taxpayer makes to a school tuition organization (STO) that provides scholarships to qualified students to attend a qualified school. The credit is equal to the actual amount of the taxpayer's donation to the STO, excluding administrative costs. Present law further requires that the taxpayer file a Louisiana income tax return in order to qualify for the credit.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law authorizes the distribution of scholarship payments in August, November, February, and May of each year to a parent of a qualified student.

Proposed law instead authorizes the distribution of scholarship payments to a parent of a qualified student on a quarterly basis each year and otherwise retains present law.

Present law requires the parent of a qualified student to restrictively endorse the check for deposit into the account of the school.

Proposed law allows the parent of a qualified student to electronically endorse the check for deposit by the school if the payment is made by check. Further allows the parent of a qualified student to approve payment in a form other than by check.

Present law prohibits a qualified student receiving a scholarship from a STO from also receiving any other publicly funded scholarship, voucher, or other form of financial assistance for the purpose of attending a nonpublic school.

Proposed law repeals present law prohibition and authorizes a qualified student who receives a scholarship from a STO to also receive any other publicly funded scholarship, voucher, or other form of financial assistance specific to that student for purposes of attending a nonpublic school. Further restricts the sum an eligible student can receive from STOs and other publicly funded scholarships, vouchers, and other forms of financial assistance to the actual tuition and fees at the qualified school.

Present law requires qualified schools to annually administer the state test associated with the school and district accountability system to measure learning gains in math and language arts to all participating students in grades that require testing under the state's accountability testing laws for public schools.

Proposed law requires qualified schools to annually administer either any examination in English Language Arts and mathematics required pursuant to the school and district accountability system at the prescribed grade level or a nationally norm-referenced test or assessment approved by the state board.

Present law requires the Dept. of Education to verify that each qualified student has received scholarships not to exceed actual tuition and fees at the qualified school or 80% of the state average MFP per pupil funding amount for the previous year for a qualified student enrolled in K through 8th grade, or 90% of the state average MFP per pupil funding amount for the previous year for a qualified student enrolled in 9th through 12th grade.

Proposed law clarifies that the Dept. of Education is to verify that each qualified student has not received scholarships from school tuition organizations exceeding these amounts and otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Education to verify that the total of scholarships received by each qualified student from STOs and any other publicly funded scholarships, vouchers, or other forms of financial assistance for purposes of attending a nonpublic school does not exceed actual tuition and fees at the qualified school.

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

(Amends R.S. 47:6301(B)(1)(c)(v), (2)(a)(ii), (3)(b) and (C)(1)(d)(i))

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

##### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs to the original bill

1. Remove provisions that raised the maximum amount eligible for the credit from 80% or 90% of the state MFP amount from the previous year to 100% of the state MFP amount from the previous year.
2. Remove provisions allowing the maximum amount eligible for the credit to include the local portion of the MFP for the previous year in addition to the state MFP amount.
3. Make technical changes.

##### Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Replace the term restrictively endorse with approve for purposes of STO payments to parents of eligible students.
2. Restrict the amount of scholarships from STOs and any other publicly funded

scholarships, vouchers, or other forms of financial assistance for purposes of attending a nonpublic school to actual tuition and fees at the qualified school.

3. Require the Dept. of Education to verify the sum of scholarships received by a qualified student does not exceed the actual tuition and fees at the qualified school.