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## DIGEST

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SB 207 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Carter

Proposed law requires public high schools to provide students with the opportunity to enroll in available vocational and technical education courses.

Provides that, if a high school does not offer vocational and technical education courses, the governing authority of the school may enter into agreements to partner with any of the following to provide available vocational and technical education courses for students as required by proposed law:

- (1) Other public schools.
- (2) Two-year public postsecondary education institutions in La.
- (3) Nonprofit proprietary schools approved by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

Proposed law provides that proposed law does not supersede the Course Choice Program as provided in present law (R.S. 17:4002.1 et seq.), which authorizes high school students to take courses beyond their traditional school curriculum, including postsecondary education courses, and pursue internships with private companies.

Proposed law provides that, if the high school's approved mission or curriculum model does not align with providing vocational and technical education courses, the governing authority of the school may request a waiver from BESE for the requirement of proposed law to provide students with the opportunity to enroll in available vocational and technical education courses.

Proposed law prohibits a student from being assessed a course fee when the local education agency receives career development funds in the minimum foundation program for such course.

Proposed law requires public high schools to advise students of the availability of the TOPS Tech Early Start Award as provided in present law (R.S. 17:5081) for eligible students and to provide information on the eligibility criteria of the award.

(Adds R.S. 17:183.4 and 3996(B)(4))

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

#### Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Change the requirement that schools offer only those vocational and technical courses to only those available courses.
2. Change those with whom the partnership agreements may be entered into to provide vocational and technical education.
3. Require that public high schools are to advise students of the availability of the TOPS Tech Early Start Award.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Add that high schools with a specific mission other than vocational and technical training, may seek a waiver from BESE.
2. Prohibit charging students a fee for courses in certain circumstances.
3. Makes technical changes.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the reengrossed bill:

1. Revise language relative to the authority of governing authorities of public high schools to enter into agreements and request waivers.
2. Make technical changes.