

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY REPRESENTATIVE TURNER

TOPS: Directs the Board of Regents, Louisiana Works, and Louisiana Economic Development to study the state's return on investment with respect to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students in collaboration with the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To authorize and direct the Board of Regents, Louisiana Works, and Louisiana Economic  
3 Development to jointly study, in collaboration with the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco  
4 Public Policy Center, the state's return on investment with respect to the Taylor  
5 Opportunity Program for Students and submit a written report of findings and  
6 recommendations to the House Committee on Education, the House Committee on  
7 Appropriations, and the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations not later  
8 than February 15, 2027.

9 WHEREAS, the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) has enabled  
10 thousands of Louisiana students to pursue postsecondary education and served as a  
11 cornerstone of opportunity for nearly three decades; and

12 WHEREAS, TOPS represents one of Louisiana's most significant financial  
13 commitments to postsecondary education; and

14 WHEREAS, TOPS has increased college access and retention for Louisiana students,  
15 yet questions persist regarding the program's long-term return on investment for the state;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the Board of Regents, Louisiana Works, and Louisiana Economic  
18 Development each play a central role in aligning education and workforce needs to  
19 strengthen Louisiana's economic competitiveness; and

1           WHEREAS, the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center at the University  
2 of Louisiana at Lafayette conducts objective, data-driven policy research on complex state  
3 programs; and

4           WHEREAS, a coordinated study among these agencies will enable the state to  
5 identify whether current investments in TOPS are producing sufficient workforce and  
6 economic outcomes and to determine how program funds could be better targeted to support  
7 Louisiana's future workforce needs; and

8           WHEREAS, ensuring that Louisiana taxpayers receive an optimal return on their  
9 investment in postsecondary education incentives is essential for the long-term fiscal health  
10 and prosperity of the state.

11           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
12 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and direct the Board of Regents, Louisiana  
13 Works, and Louisiana Economic Development to jointly study the state's return on  
14 investment with respect to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) and submit  
15 a written report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education, the  
16 House Committee on Appropriations, and the House Committee on Labor and Industrial  
17 Relations not later than February 15, 2027.

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these agencies shall use information provided  
19 by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance when conducting the study.

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these agencies shall work collaboratively with  
21 the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center to design the research framework,  
22 collect necessary data, and ensure transparency throughout the process.

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include, at a minimum, the  
24 following:

25           (1) An analysis of post-graduation outcomes for TOPS recipients, including  
26 workforce participation, in-state employment retention, and average earnings.

27           (2) A comparison of the economic and workforce outcomes of TOPS recipients  
28 versus nonrecipients.

29           (3) An assessment of whether the various award levels and institutional distribution  
30 maximize Louisiana's workforce needs and economic development priorities.

1           (4) Recommendations for policy adjustments needed to ensure TOPS funds are used  
2 in a manner aligned with Louisiana's long-term workforce needs, economic competitiveness,  
3 and the prosperity of its citizens.

4           (5) A comparative analysis of the largest state-funded financial assistance programs  
5 for students enrolled in postsecondary education institutions.

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report may be incorporated into the 2027  
7 Launch Louisiana report developed and published by the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public  
8 Policy Center for Louisiana's Foundational Integrated Research System for Transformation  
9 as provided in R.S. 17:3138.12(D)(1).

10           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of this study is not to review  
11 individual TOPS eligibility criteria or award determinations but to examine long-term  
12 economic and workforce trends to inform future state competitiveness.

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
14 chairman of the Board of Regents, commissioner of higher education, secretary of Louisiana  
15 Works, secretary of Louisiana Economic Development, state superintendent of education,  
16 and presidents of the Louisiana State University System, Southern University System,  
17 University of Louisiana System, and Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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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HR 17 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Turner

Authorizes and directs the Bd. of Regents, La. Works, and La. Economic Development to jointly study, in coordination with the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center, the state's return on investment with respect to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students and to submit a written report to the House Committee on Education, House Committee on Appropriations, and House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations not later than Feb. 15, 2027. Provides for the agencies to use information from the La. Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) when conducting the study, that the study include a comparative analysis of the largest state-funded student financial assistance programs, and that the report may be incorporated into the 2027 Launch La. report published the Blanco Center for Louisiana's Foundational Integrated Research System for Transformation (LA FIRST) required by present law.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

1. Change report deadline from March 1, 2027, to Feb. 15, 2027.
2. Add the House Committee on Appropriations and House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations as report recipients.
3. Provide for the agencies to use information provided by LOSFA when conducting the study.
4. Add that the report may be incorporated into the 2027 Launch La. report by the Blanco Center for LA FIRST.
5. Provide for the study to include a comparative analysis of the largest state-funded student financial assistance programs.