

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 171

BY REPRESENTATIVE TURNER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents, in coordination with Louisiana Works, the state Department of Education, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center, and other appropriate stakeholders, to study the effectiveness, utilization, and workforce outcomes of the M.J. Foster Promise Program and the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students Tech Award, including how they align with other financial aid programs, and to report findings to the legislature.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has made significant investments in workforce development programs intended to increase access to postsecondary training and industry-based credentials for residents seeking employment in high-demand fields; and

WHEREAS, the M.J. Foster Promise Program provides financial assistance to eligible students who enroll in a qualified program at a two-year public college or university, or an accredited proprietary school licensed by the Board of Regents to pursue an associate degree or a shorter-term postsecondary education credential required for certain high-demand, high-wage occupations aligned with Louisiana's workforce priorities as determined by an advisory council pursuant to R.S. 17:3047.1; the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students Tech (TOPS-Tech) Award provides tuition support for up to two years of skill or occupational training at any campus of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, accredited two- or four-year public colleges or universities, or members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities to pursue a vocational or technical education certificate, diploma, or non-academic degree program; and

WHEREAS, these programs engage a wide network of institutions and workforce training providers, including institutions within the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, Louisiana State University at Eunice, Southern University at Shreveport, approved proprietary schools, and other credentialing providers; and

WHEREAS, these programs must remain aligned with industry demand, workforce shortages, and regional economic development priorities in order to maximize the return on investment for the state and its taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, an evaluation of the M.J. Foster Promise Program and TOPS-Tech would help determine participation trends, completion outcomes, workforce placement rates, and opportunities for improvement in program delivery and coordination across state agencies; a study and recommendations on state-funded financial aid to simplify, align, streamline, and optimize is crucial to achieving the best return on investment for Louisiana taxpayers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents, in coordination with Louisiana Works, the state Department of Education, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center, and other appropriate stakeholders, to study the effectiveness, utilization, and workforce outcomes of the M.J. Foster Promise Program and the TOPS-Tech Award, including how they align with other financial aid programs, and to report findings to the legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these agencies shall work collaboratively to design the research framework, collect necessary data, and ensure data protection and data security throughout the process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include but need not be limited to the following:

- (1) Program participation levels and demographic trends among recipients.
- (2) The types of credentials, certificates, and training programs funded through each program.
- (3) Completion and credential attainment rates for program participants.
- (4) Workforce outcomes, including job placement, wage growth, and retention in high-demand occupations.
- (5) Program cost comparisons with a return on investment analysis, including estimated state fiscal impact such as tax revenue generated by participants and comparison of program costs to economic outcomes.

(6) Possible alignment opportunities between funded programs and current and projected workforce shortages in Louisiana.

(7) Recommendations for more efficient coordination between secondary education, postsecondary institutions, and workforce development programs.

(8) Recommendations for improving program accessibility, efficiency, and alignment with the workforce needs of employers and the education and training needs of students.

(9) Outcomes of program participants disaggregated by age, including but not limited to participants under the age of twenty-one.

(10) Comparative analysis of similarly situated individuals who did not receive program funding, including individuals of comparable age, educational attainment, and workforce status, in order to assess differences in employment, earnings, and career progression associated with participation in the M.J. Foster Promise Program and the TOPS-Tech Award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall provide a comparative analysis of all state-funded financial aid programs including an evaluation of any gaps in financial support that create barriers to participant access.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education, the House Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, and the House Committee on Appropriations, not later than February 15, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of higher education, the secretary of Louisiana Works, the state superintendent of education, the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, the executive director of the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center, the chair of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, and the chair of the Board of Supervisors of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.