

First Extraordinary Session, 2005

HOUSE BILL NO. 144

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHNEIDER

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Provides relative to initial eligibility residency requirements for TOPS awards for high school students displaced during the 05-06 school year as a consequence of Hurricane Katrina or Rita (Item #37)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3048.1(C)(5), relative to initial eligibility residency requirements for
3 Tuition Opportunity Program for Students awards applicable to students displaced
4 during the 2005-2006 school year as a consequence of certain natural disasters; to
5 provide criteria for residency determinations; to provide relative to applicability; to
6 provide limitations; to require the adoption of certain rules by the Louisiana Student
7 Financial Assistance Commission; to provide an effective date; and to provide for
8 related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(C)(5) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

12 * * *

13 C.

14 * * *

15 (5)(a) In addition to the criteria established in R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(a) for
16 a student to meet the state residency requirement to be eligible for a program award,
17 the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission shall provide by rule
18 adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act that a student
19 displaced during the 2005-2006 school year due to the effects of the natural disaster

1 declared by the governor on August 26, 2005, relative to Hurricane Katrina, or the
2 disaster declared by the governor on September 20, 2005, relative to Hurricane Rita,
3 shall meet the residency requirement if such student actually resided in Louisiana
4 during his entire tenth grade year of high school and attended for such time an
5 eligible Louisiana high school and the student subsequently completes his twelfth
6 grade year at and graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school during the
7 2006-2007 school year.

8 (b) For the purposes of this Paragraph, the phrase "a student displaced during
9 the 2005-2006 school year due to the effects of the natural disaster declared by the
10 governor on August 26, 2005, relative to Hurricane Katrina, or the disaster declared
11 by the governor on September 20, 2005, relative to Hurricane Rita" shall mean a
12 student who meets either of the following conditions:

13 (i) On August 26, 2005, the student was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana
14 high school and such school was located in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans,
15 Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, or Washington Parish.

16 (ii) On September 20, 2005, the student was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana
17 high school and such school was located in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu,
18 Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Terrebonne, or Vermilion Parish.

19 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
20 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
21 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
22 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
23 effective on the day following such approval.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

Schneider

HB No. 144

Abstract: For TOPS award eligibility purposes, provides an additional means for determining state residency for students enrolled on specified dates in eligible Louisiana high schools located in certain parishes and who were displaced during the 2005-06 school year as a consequence of Hurricane Katrina or Rita.

Present law (R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(a)), relative to the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), provides multiple criteria, depending on specified conditions, for determining state residency for purposes of initial program award eligibility.

Proposed law provides additional criteria for determining state residency for program purposes. Requires the La. Student Financial Assistance Commission to provide by rule, adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, that a high school student displaced during the 2005-06 school year due to the effects of Hurricane Katrina or Rita shall meet the state residency requirement if such student actually resided in La. during his entire 10th grade year of high school and attended for such time an eligible La. high school and the student subsequently completes his 12th grade year at and graduates from an eligible La. high school during the 2006-07 school year.

Provides that proposed law is applicable to a student who meets either of the following conditions:

- (1) On August 26, 2005, the student was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana high school and such school was located in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, or Washington Parish.
- (2) On September 20, 2005, the student was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana high school and such school was located in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Terrebonne, or Vermilion Parish.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:3048.1(C)(5))