
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))