
DIGEST

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Talbot

HB No. 779

Abstract: Adds to the definition of a "qualified student" for purposes of the rebate for donations to school tuition organizations, any student enrolled in a public school which no longer provides a safe environment for the student due to certain specific acts or threats of violence.

Present law authorizes a rebate for donations a taxpayer makes to a school tuition organization which provides scholarships to qualified students to attend a qualified school. The amount of the rebate is equal to the actual amount of the taxpayer's donation used by a school tuition organization to fund a scholarship to a qualified student.

Present law defines a "qualified student" as a child who is a member of a family that resides in La. with a total household income that does not exceed an amount equal to 250% of the federal poverty level based on the federal poverty guidelines. A qualified student shall also be a student who is entering kindergarten for the first time, a student who attended a public school the previous year, or a student who received a scholarship from a school tuition organization for the previous school year.

Proposed law retains present law but adds to the definition of "qualified student" a student enrolled in a public school which no longer provides a safe environment for the student due to acts of violence or threats of violence, bullying, including cyberbullying, use of illegal drugs or alcohol, arson, sexual activity, theft of personal property, and excessive disciplinary referrals and classroom disruptions.

(Amends R.S. 47:6301(B)(3))