

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 599

BY SENATOR ERDEY

TOPS. Provides relative to TOPS reporting requirements. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:3048.3(B)(7), (8) and (9), relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to provide for information reporting; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.3(B)(7), (8) and (9) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§3048.3. Program information reporting system; implementation; requirements; applicability; participation by eligible institutions and others

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B. The Taylor Opportunity Program for Students information reporting system shall include but not be limited to the following:

* * *

(7) Demographic information of program award recipients, including but not limited to race, gender, and parents' household income.

(8) High school grade point average and American College Test or concordant Scholastic Aptitude Test scores of program award recipients grouped by mean, median, and mode.

(9) High school grade point average and American College Test or

1 **concordant Scholastic Aptitude Test score cross-referenced with those students**
 2 **who lost the award and those who were placed on probationary status and the**
 3 **reasons therefor.**

4 * * *

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

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

DIGEST

Erdey (SB 599)

Present law requires the Board of Regents to formulate, develop, establish, and implement a uniform Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) information reporting system for the purposes of policy analysis and program evaluation and for providing accurate data and statistics to the legislature, the governor and appropriate executive branch agencies, and the public relative to the program's impact on the state and on students.

Present law requires the TOPS information reporting system include but not be limited to the following:

- (1) A report prepared as of the end of the Fall semester and Spring semester during each academic year relative to the rate of retention of program awards by students. The data shall be reported by institution attended and by program award category, and shall include the percent of students losing program eligibility due to not earning the minimum number of credit hours, the percent of students losing program eligibility due to not having the required cumulative grade point average, and the percent of students losing program eligibility for failing to make steady academic progress.
- (2) The persistence rates of freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior students receiving a TOPS award reported by award category and by award year.
- (3) The graduation rates reported by award category and award year, including for those graduating with an academic degree at the baccalaureate level the rate for persons graduating within four years, within five years, and within six years, respectively.
- (4) The mean length of time required for a student receiving a program award to graduate with an academic degree at the baccalaureate level or to complete the chosen postsecondary education program if otherwise applicable with such information being reported by award category and by award year.
- (5) An annual report on the number of applicants as well as the percent of high school graduates by high school and by parish who apply for a program award, by award category, and the percent of those students who subsequently enroll in a college or university.

Coding: Words which are ~~struck through~~ are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

- (6) Statistical studies on the relationship between the courses taken and grades earned by a high school student and the student's score on the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Relative to public high schools, such statistical studies shall use student course and grade data that is otherwise available from the schools and such studies shall be conducted at no additional cost to the governing authority of any public high school.

Proposed law retains present law and adds to following reporting requirements:

- (1) Demographic information of program award recipients, including but not limited to race, gender, and parents' household income.
- (2) High school grade point average and ACT or SAT scores of program award recipients grouped by mean, median, and mode.
- (3) High school grade point average and ACT or SAT score cross-referenced with those students who lost the award and those who were placed on probationary status, and the reasons therefor.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:3048.3(B)(7), (8) and (9))