

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 655

BY SENATOR BUFFINGTON

FUNDS/FUNDING. To authorize public or private entities to make certain donations to various educational institutions for recipients of TOPS Awards or GO Grants. (7/1/14)

1 AN ACT
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3046 and enact R.S. 17:3048.1(M), relative to financial
3 assistance for certain qualified students; to authorize public or private entities to
4 make certain donations to various education institutions for recipients of TOPS
5 awards or GO Grants; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S.17:3046 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:3048.1(M) is
9 hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §3046. Louisiana GO Grant program; legislative findings

11 A. The legislature finds that a college education should be available to all
12 qualified students, regardless of their financial means, and declares that the
13 Louisiana GO Grant program established by the Board of Regents has enhanced
14 access to postsecondary educational opportunities for Louisiana students with
15 demonstrated financial need by providing critically needed assistance to help cover
16 the cost of attending postsecondary education institutions in the state. The legislature
17 further finds that leveraging access to postsecondary education for students with

1 demonstrated financial need ensures that all qualified students are afforded an
2 opportunity to achieve their full educational potential, increase their overall quality
3 of life, and maximize their contribution to the state's economic development.

4 **B. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter to the contrary,**
5 **any public or private entity, including any nonprofit organization, may make**
6 **a directed donation to any eligible postsecondary institution for a student who**
7 **is a recipient of a Louisiana GO Grant.**

8 * * *

9 §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

10 * * *

11 **M. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter to the contrary,**
12 **any public or private entity, including any nonprofit organization, may make**
13 **a directed donation to any eligible postsecondary institution for a student who**
14 **is a recipient of a Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award.**

15 * * *

16 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2014; if vetoed by the governor
17 and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on July 1,
18 2014, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jay R. Lueckel.

DIGEST

Buffington (SB 655)

Present law provides for the establishment of the GO Grant program by the Board of Regents to meet the financial need of certain students.

Present law provides for the establishment of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award. Provides for the eligibility of the various TOPS awards and the administrative requirements of TOPS.

Proposed law retains present law relative to Go Grant and TOPS and also provides that any public or private entity, including any nonprofit organization, may make a directed donation to any eligible postsecondary institution for a student who is a recipient of a Louisiana GO Grant or a Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award.

Effective July 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 17:3046; adds R.S. 17:3048.1(M))