

**HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS**

House Bill No. 1115 by Representative Thompson

**STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP:** Provides relative to high school graduation requirements and Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) core curriculum requirements

**Synopsis of Senate Amendments**

1. Designates certain courses that may be taken to satisfy the Civics graduation requirement instead of authorizing BESE to designate Civics course equivalencies to align graduation requirements with the TOPS core curriculum.
2. Revises the course options for satisfying each unit of social studies required in the TOPS core curriculum.

**Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate**

Present law requires all public high schools to give instruction in Civics and Free Enterprise as a prerequisite to graduation. Requires that Civics instruction be given for two semesters, equal to one unit of credit, and include a section on Free Enterprise. Proposed law authorizes students who enter ninth grade on or after July 1, 2014, to satisfy the Civics requirement by taking Government, AP US Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP US Government and Politics: US.

Present law requires that to be eligible for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award, students graduating from high school during the 2017-18 school year and thereafter shall complete 19 units of a specified core curriculum, including four units in social studies. Proposed law retains the course names and total number of social studies units but revises the options for satisfying the requirements of each unit, as follows:

Unit 1: Present law: U.S. History, AP US History, or IB US History.

Proposed law retains present law.

Unit 2: Present law: ½ unit of Government, AP US Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP US Government and Politics: US and ½ unit of Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics or one unit of Civics.

Proposed law: Removes economics courses from this group of options. Retains one unit of Civics as an option but provides it as an alternative to one unit of any of these government-related courses.

Units 3 & 4: Present law: Western Civilization, European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; or IB Economics.

Proposed law: Adds Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics as alternatives to IB Economics and otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:274.1(A) and (B)(1) and 3048.1(A)(1)(f)(iv))