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## DIGEST

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HB 655 Original

2016 Regular Session

Nancy Landry

**Abstract:** Revises the definition of "eligible student" for purposes of participation in the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program.

Present law establishes the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program and defines "eligible student" for purposes of program participation. Provides that to be eligible, a student shall reside in La., be a member of a family with a total income that does not exceed 250% of the current federal poverty guidelines, and meet any one of several criteria. Present law specifies these criteria, and proposed law revises them, as follows:

- (1) Is entering kindergarten and has enrolled in the local school system in which the public school he would have otherwise attended is located or in a school under the jurisdiction of the Recovery School District (RSD). Proposed law provides that to meet this criterion, a student shall be entering either kindergarten *or* prekindergarten.
- (2) Was enrolled in a public school in La. on Oct. 1st and on Feb. 1st of the most recent school year pursuant to the definition of student membership established by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education for purposes of the minimum foundation program formula, and such school received a letter grade of "C", "D", or "F", or any variation thereof, for the most recent year pursuant to the school and district accountability system. Proposed law revises this criterion by removing the requirement that such school shall have received such letter grade for the most recent year and otherwise retains present law.
- (3) Received a scholarship pursuant to present law in the previous school year. Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:4013(2)(a) and (b))