

Proposed law provides that a student whose award is reduced or eliminated pursuant to proposed law is not required to accept payment of his award or to enroll or maintain continuous enrollment in an eligible college or university during the time period for which there is a funding shortfall and may defer acceptance of his award benefits. Further provides that if a student opts to defer acceptance of his award payment, all of the following apply:

- (1) The student, upon enrollment or re-enrollment in an eligible college or university, is eligible to receive all applicable award benefits for any remaining semester or semesters, or the equivalent thereof, of his unused eligibility.
- (2) The student must meet all academic and other eligibility requirements established by law or rule, except as otherwise provided in proposed law.
- (3) The student must exhaust all unused award eligibility within five years of the initial reduction or elimination of his award, provided that if the student requests and is granted an exception for cause to the requirement to enroll or to maintain continuous enrollment in an eligible college or university, the time period within which the student must exhaust his award eligibility shall be extended by the amount of time for which he was granted an exception.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:5065(D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Allows a student whose award is reduced or eliminated due to insufficient funding to defer acceptance of his award payment and retain the option to later accept and receive his award for all semesters, or equivalent thereof, for which he qualifies to receive his TOPS award.
2. Requires the student to exhaust all such unused award eligibility within five years of the initial reduction/elimination of his award, unless granted an exception for cause; in which case the time period to exhaust unused award eligibility is extended by the amount of time the exception was granted.