

SENATE BILL NO. 174

BY SENATORS DONAHUE, ALLAIN, APPEL, CHABERT, JOHNS, LONG,  
MARTINY, MORRISH, RISER, TARVER AND THOMPSON AND  
REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, BAGNERIS, CARMODY,  
CARPENTER, STEVE CARTER, DAVIS, HOFFMANN, JAMES,  
NANCY LANDRY, LYONS AND PRICE

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5002(A), (B) and (D), and 5024(B)(1)(a), relative to the  
3 Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to provide relative to the minimum  
4 American College Test score required for eligibility for the Opportunity award; to  
5 provide with respect to the monetary amounts for awards granted pursuant to the  
6 program; to provide relative to future increases in award amounts; and to provide for  
7 related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:5002(A), (B) and (D), and 5024(B)(1)(a) are hereby amended and  
10 reenacted to read as follows:

11 §5002. Awards and amounts

12 A. **(1)** A student shall be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, Honors,  
13 or TOPS-Tech Award based on his academic achievement.

14 **(2) The award amount as provided for in Subsection B or D of this**  
15 **Section to a student enrolled in any given institution shall be equal to the award**  
16 **amount paid for a student at that institution during the 2016-2017 academic**  
17 **year unless the legislature, by law, increases the award amount.**

18 B. Any student who is eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors  
19 Award pursuant to this Chapter and who has enrolled:

20 (1) In any public college or university in this state, shall be awarded by the  
21 state an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the tuition charged  
22 by the public college or university **during the 2016-2017 academic year.**

23 (2) At any regionally accredited independent college or university in the state  
24 which is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and

1 Universities to pursue an academic undergraduate degree, shall be awarded by the  
 2 state an amount to be determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted  
 3 average of amounts paid under this Section for students attending public colleges and  
 4 universities that offer academic undergraduate degrees at the baccalaureate level  
 5 **during the 2016-2017 academic year.**

6 (3) In a school that has a valid and current certificate of registration issued  
 7 by the Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology in accordance with law and that is  
 8 accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States  
 9 Department of Education or in any proprietary school that has a valid and current  
 10 license issued by the Board of Regents in accordance with law and that is accredited  
 11 by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of  
 12 Education, shall be awarded by the state an amount determined by the administering  
 13 agency to equal the weighted average of amounts paid under this Section for students  
 14 attending public colleges and universities **during the 2016-2017 academic year and**  
 15 who are enrolled in the permitted skill or occupational training, as may be applicable.

16 (4) In an out-of-state college or university that is specifically designed to  
 17 accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing students under R.S. 17:5027(C), shall be  
 18 awarded an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted  
 19 average of amounts paid under this Section for students attending Louisiana public  
 20 colleges and universities that offer academic undergraduate degrees **during the**  
 21 **2016-2017 academic year.**

22 \* \* \*

23 D.(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection, a student who is  
 24 eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter and who is enrolled:

25 (a) In an eligible public college or university that does not offer an academic  
 26 undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level in those associate's degree or other  
 27 shorter-term training and education programs that are aligned to state workforce  
 28 priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce  
 29 Investment Council shall be awarded by the state an amount determined by the  
 30 administering agency to equal the tuition charged by the college or university **during**

1 the 2016-2017 academic year. If the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce  
 2 Investment Council determine that a program is no longer aligned with those  
 3 priorities, an otherwise eligible student who had previously received an award and  
 4 enrolled in that program may continue to use the award.

5 (b) In an eligible college or university other than as provided for in  
 6 Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph in those associate's degree or other shorter-term  
 7 training education programs that are aligned to state workforce priorities as  
 8 determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment  
 9 Council shall be awarded by the state an amount determined by the administering  
 10 agency to equal the weighted average of amounts paid to students attending an  
 11 eligible public college or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate  
 12 degree at the baccalaureate level during the 2016-2017 academic year. If the Board  
 13 of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council determine that a  
 14 program is no longer aligned with those priorities, an otherwise eligible student who  
 15 had previously received an award and enrolled in that program may continue to use  
 16 the award.

17 (2) A student who graduated prior to the 2016-2017 school year, who is  
 18 eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter, and who is enrolled:

19 (a) In an eligible college or university that does not offer an academic  
 20 undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level shall be awarded by the state an  
 21 amount determined by the administering agency to equal the tuition charged by the  
 22 college or university during the 2016-2017 academic year.

23 (b) In an eligible college or university other than as provided for in  
 24 Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph shall be awarded by the state an amount  
 25 determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted average of amounts  
 26 paid to students attending an eligible public college or university that does not offer  
 27 an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level during the 2016-2017  
 28 academic year.

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30 §5024. Academic requirements

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B.(1) Except as otherwise provided by this Subsection, a student shall earn the following minimum test scores for the respective awards:

(a) For an Opportunity Award, a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT which is at least equal to or higher than the state's average composite score, ~~rounded to the nearest~~ **truncated to a** whole number, reported for the prior year but never less than twenty or an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such test or on the SAT.

\* \* \*

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_