
DIGEST

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HB 541 Original

2017 Regular Session

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Abstract: Require students' Individual Graduation Plans (IGP) to include plans on how to graduate early from high school and redirects savings as a result of such early graduation to fund scholarships for such students and for administration of the Child Care Assistance Program.

Present law relative to Individual Graduation Plans, requires students in the 8th grade to develop a plan to explore educational and career possibilities and to make appropriate decisions as part of an overall career plan. Permits students to choose the high school curriculum framework and related graduation requirements that best meet their postsecondary goals. Provides that each student's plan shall include the recommended sequence of courses needed for successful completion of his chosen career major and shall be reviewed annually and updated as needed. Requires that a student's plan be signed by the student and his parent or other legal guardian.

Proposed law adds a requirement that by the end of the 8th grade, each student's IGP include a plan for how the student can complete high school by the end of 11th grade and qualify for an "Early College Scholarship" as provided in proposed law. Requires school counselors to ensure that the IGP includes these early graduation plans and that such plans comply with present law requirements that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopt an early high school graduation policy and local public school boards implement such policy. Otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law provides for savings resulting from early high school graduates to be redirected for the following purposes:

- (1) To provide an "Early College Scholarship" to a student who completes all high school graduation requirements and receives a high school diploma by the end of 11th grade and enrolls in a La. public postsecondary education institution within one year of graduating. Provides for scholarship awards to be made by the La. Office of Student Financial Assistance, pursuant to rules adopted by the Bd. of Regents. Provides that the scholarship value shall be equal to 49% of the base per pupil amount contained in the minimum foundation program (MFP) formula, excluding any weights and payments shall be made to the public postsecondary education institution upon evidence of the student's enrollment. Provides that the scholarship is a one-time scholarship and prohibits scholarship renewal. Further provides that the Office of Student Financial Assistance shall receive an amount equal to 2% of the base per pupil amount contained in the MFP formula to defray the costs of administering the scholarship program. Provides that proposed law is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature.

- (2) To provide for more funding for the Child Care Assistance Program administered by the state Dept. of Education. Provides that the department shall receive an amount equal to 49% of the base per pupil amount contained in the MFP formula per early-graduating high school student to administer the Child Care Assistance Program. Provides that proposed law is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature.

(Amends R.S. 17:2925(A)(2); Adds R.S. 17:407.30 and 1609)