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## DIGEST

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HB 541 Reengrossed

2017 Regular Session

Steve Carter

**Abstract:** Require students' Individual Graduation Plans (IGP) to include plans on how to graduate early from high school and provides for using 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 student is informed of proposed law including that the availability of the scholarships is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature for such purpose. 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 used 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 or an independent college or university that is a member of the La. Assoc. of Independent Colleges and Universities 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 state Level I base per pupil amount contained in the minimum foundation program (MFP) formula, excluding any weights, and payments shall be made to the 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 state Level I 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 state Level I 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.

Proposed law requires the state superintendent of education to annually report the following information to the governor, commissioner of administration, and legislature:

- (1) The number of students who graduated or are expected to graduate from high school in fewer than four years and the amount of state funding in the minimum foundation program formula that would have otherwise been appropriated to fund their education if they had not graduated early.
- (2) The estimated value and total cost of scholarships that such students are eligible to receive pursuant to proposed law.
- (3) The estimated number of children who could be served through the Child Care Assistance Program if the legislature appropriates funds for the program.

(Amends R.S. 17:22(11) and 2925(A)(2); Adds R.S. 17:22(12), 407.30, and 1609)

#### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Add requirement that the state superintendent of education annually report certain information relative to the number of early high school graduates and MFP funding for such students, the value and cost of the Early College Scholarships for such students, and the number of children who could be served through the Child Care Assistance Program if the legislature appropriates funds.
2. Add that a student may use an Early College Scholarship to enroll in any regionally accredited independent college and university that is a member of the La. Assoc. of Independent Colleges or Universities.
3. Change references to "base per pupil amount" to "state Level I base per pupil amount".

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Require school counselors to ensure that the student is informed of proposed law including that the availability of the scholarships is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature for such purpose.