

SENATE BILL NO. 71

BY SENATOR DONAHUE

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5002(A)(2), (B), (D)(1)(b) and (2)(b), the introductory paragraph of 5041, and the introductory paragraph of 5042, relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to provide relative to the amounts of program awards; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:5002(A)(2), (B), (D)(1)(b) and (2)(b), the introductory paragraph of 5041, and the introductory paragraph of 5042 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§5002. Awards and amounts

A. \* \* \*

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

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

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

(2) At any regionally accredited independent college or university in the state

1 which is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and  
 2 Universities to pursue an academic undergraduate degree, shall be awarded by the  
 3 state an amount to be determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted  
 4 average of ~~amounts paid under this Section to~~ **the tuition amounts charged to**  
 5 students attending public colleges and universities that offer academic undergraduate  
 6 degrees at the baccalaureate level during the 2016-2017 academic year.

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

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

24 \* \* \*

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

27 \* \* \*

28 (b) In an eligible college or university other than as provided for in  
 29 Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph in those associate's degree or other shorter-term  
 30 training education programs that are aligned to state workforce priorities as

1 determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment  
 2 Council shall be awarded by the state an amount determined by the administering  
 3 agency to equal the weighted average of ~~amounts paid~~ **the tuition amounts charged**  
 4 to students attending an eligible public college or university that does not offer an  
 5 academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level during the 2016-2017  
 6 academic year. If the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment  
 7 Council determine that a program is no longer aligned with those priorities, an  
 8 otherwise eligible student who had previously received an award and enrolled in that  
 9 program may continue to use the award.

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

12 \* \* \*

13 (b) In an eligible college or university other than as provided for in  
 14 Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph shall be awarded by the state an amount  
 15 determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted average of ~~amounts~~  
 16 **paid the tuition amounts charged** to students attending an eligible public college  
 17 or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the  
 18 baccalaureate level during the 2016-2017 academic year.

19 \* \* \*

20 §5041. Maintaining eligibility; Honors, Performance, Opportunity

21 To maintain continued state payment of ~~an amount equal to tuition and other~~  
 22 ~~amounts for~~ **any amount pursuant to** an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors  
 23 Award ~~pursuant to this Chapter~~ once enrolled in college a student shall meet all of  
 24 the following:

25 \* \* \*

26 §5042. Maintaining eligibility; TOPS-Tech

27 To maintain continued state payment of ~~an~~ **any** amount ~~equal to tuition~~  
 28 pursuant to a TOPS-Tech Award once enrolled in an institution, a student shall meet  
 29 all of the following:

30 \* \* \*

1           Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
2 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
3 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
4 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
5 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: \_\_\_\_\_