

2018 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 452

BY SENATOR MORRISH

TOPS. Changes certain TOPS initial eligibility requirements and provides relative to the sharing of certain student data. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(c), 5025(3)(c), the introductory paragraph of  
3 5026(A) and (A)(3)(b), 5061, the introductory paragraph of 5062(C), (C)(1), and  
4 (C)(4), R.S. 39:98.3(D), and R.S. 47:1508(B)(17), relative to the Taylor Opportunity  
5 Program for Students; to provide relative eligibility requirements; to provide relative  
6 to Board of Regents reporting requirements; to provide relative to sharing of certain  
7 taxpayer data to the administering agency; to provide for technical changes; and to  
8 provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(c), 5025(3)(c), the introductory paragraph of 5026(A)  
11 and (A)(3)(b), 5061, the introductory paragraph of 5062(C), (C)(1), and (C)(4) are hereby  
12 amended and reenacted are hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §183.3. Career major; description; curriculum and graduation requirements

14 \* \* \*

15 B.(1) \* \* \*

16 (2) The course requirements for the career major shall consist of the  
17 following:

\* \* \*

(c) At least two science credits, including one credit of Biology and one additional course from among the following: Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one credit combined), **Physics**, or AP or IB Science courses.

\* \* \*

§5025. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance, Honors Awards

To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant to this Chapter, a student who graduates during or after the 2017-2018 school year shall have successfully completed a core curriculum which consists of nineteen units of high school course work as follows:

\* \* \*

(3) Science - Four Units

\* \* \*

(c) Two units chosen from the following: Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined); Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science, or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, **AP Physics I**, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, ~~or~~ IB Physics II; ~~AP Physics I and, or~~ AP Physics II; Biology II, AP Biology, or IB Biology II.

\* \* \*

§5026. High school core curriculum requirements; TOPS-Tech

A. ~~Except as otherwise provided by this Section, to~~ **To** be eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter, the student shall have successfully completed the core curriculum requirements of R.S. 17:5025 ~~or 5025.3~~ or the core curriculum defined as follows:

\* \* \*

(3) Science - Two Units

1 (a) \* \* \*

2 (b) One unit from the following: Chemistry I, Earth Science, Environmental  
3 Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (both for one unit), Physical Science,  
4 **Physics**, or AP or IB science courses.

5 \* \* \*

6 §5061. Administering agency

7 The provisions of this Chapter shall be administered by the Board of Regents.  
8 The administering agency ~~may~~ **shall** provide by rule adopted as provided by the  
9 Administrative Procedure Act for all matters necessary to the implementation of this  
10 Chapter.

11 §5062. Rules, procedures, and guidelines

12 \* \* \*

13 C. The administering agency shall provide the following ~~guidelines~~:

14 (1) Guidelines and procedures by which the administering agency, ~~subject to~~  
15 ~~prior approval by~~ **in consultation with** the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
16 Education, may update the course name and establish course equivalencies for any  
17 course included in the definition of core curriculum provided by this Chapter,  
18 including necessary changes to course names and equivalencies for Advanced  
19 Placement and International Baccalaureate courses as prescribed by the College  
20 Board or the International Baccalaureate Foundation. The guidelines and procedures  
21 shall include but not be limited to a requirement that any change in a course name  
22 and the establishment of any course equivalency be done by rule adopted by the  
23 administering agency and a requirement that prior to issuing a notice of intent to  
24 consider any such rule the administering agency ~~shall consult with and seek the~~  
25 ~~written comments and recommendations of the Board of Regents on making the~~  
26 ~~name change or establishing the course equivalency.~~

27 \* \* \*

28 (4)(a) **Guidelines and procedures permitting the administering agency**  
29 **to receive and consider, beginning with awards made for the 2018-2019**

1 academic year and thereafter, an applicant's qualifying score on the ACT or on  
2 the SAT which is first obtained on an authorized testing date after the national  
3 April ACT testing date in the year of the applicant's high school graduation but  
4 prior to August first of the year of such graduation or, if the administering  
5 authority determines that the applicant was prevented from taking the test  
6 prior to August first of the year of graduation due to circumstances beyond the  
7 immediate control of the student and attributable to the administration of the  
8 test, prior to September thirtieth of the year of such graduation.

9 (b) Guidelines and procedures permitting the administering agency to receive  
10 and consider, beginning with awards made for the 2000-2001 academic year and  
11 through the 2002-2003 academic year, an applicant's qualifying score on the ACT  
12 or on the SAT that is obtained on an authorized testing date after the date of the  
13 applicant's high school graduation but prior to July first of the year of such  
14 graduation.

15 ~~(b)~~(c) Guidelines and procedures permitting the administering agency to  
16 receive and consider, beginning with awards made for the 2003-2004 academic year  
17 and thereafter, an applicant's qualifying score on the ACT or on the SAT which is  
18 first obtained on an authorized testing date after the national April ACT testing date  
19 in the year of the applicant's high school graduation but prior to July first of the year  
20 of such graduation.

21 ~~(c)~~(d) Guidelines and procedures permitting the administering agency to  
22 receive and consider, beginning with awards made for the 2011-2012 academic year  
23 and thereafter, an applicant's qualifying score on the ACT or on the SAT which is  
24 first obtained on an authorized testing date after the national April ACT testing date  
25 in the year of the applicant's high school graduation but prior to July first of the year  
26 of such graduation or, if the administering authority determines that the applicant  
27 was prevented from taking the test prior to July first of the year of graduation due to  
28 circumstances beyond the immediate control of the student and attributable to the  
29 administration of the test, prior to September thirtieth of the year of such graduation.



1 Students as provided for by Chapter ~~20-G~~ **50** of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised  
 2 Statutes of 1950, **or for the purpose of determining employment and residency**  
 3 **status of past recipients of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for**  
 4 **Students awards.**

5 \* \* \*

6 Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 7 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 8 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 9 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 10 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

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#### DIGEST

SB 452 Original

2018 Regular Session

Morrish

Present law provides for high school career major curriculum and graduation requirements.

Proposed law retains present law. Additionally provides that Physics may be counted for credit as a science course to satisfy the high school career major graduation requirements.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), including providing for award amounts, initial eligibility requirements, and continuation requirements. Present law provides for the administration of TOPS.

Present law two separate core curriculum requirements, based on the type of award the student is seeking. Proposed law retains present law but allows AP Physics I and AP Physics II to count as individual classes in the TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors students core curriculum. Additionally provides Physics may count in the TOPS-Tech core curriculum.

Proposed law clarifies that the administering agency shall adopt rules as provided by the Administrative Procedure Act.

Present law provides that course equivalences shall be set by the administering agency upon prior approval by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Proposed law amends present law to provide that BESE is consulted with on the changes but is not required to approve the changes.

Present law provides that ACT and SAT tests taken after July 1 of the student's high school graduation year may not be considered when determining eligibility. Proposed law allows tests taken during July to be considered for eligibility but with penalty.

Present law provides that tax records are confidential. Present law additionally provides that certain taxpayers' information may be shared with the office of student financial assistance to help determine the students' eligibility for TOPS.

Proposed law retains present law. Further provides the tax information may also be used by the office to determine past TOPS recipient employment and residency status in Louisiana.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(c), 5025(3)(c), 5026(A)(intro para) and (A)(3)(b), 5061, 5062(C)(intro para), (C)(1), and (C)(4), R.S. 39:98.3(D), and R.S. 47:1508(B)(17))