

2019 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 203

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

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

POSTSECONDARY ED. Provides with respect to student financial assistance. (8/1/19)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3050.2(A)(3)(b), 3050.3, and 5027(A)(1) relative to student financial assistance; to provide relative to eligibility for Youth Challenge Skills Training Program tuition grants; to provide relative to TOPS-Tech eligibility; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:3050.2(A)(3)(b), 3050.3, and 5027(A)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§3050.2. Tuition grants; eligibility; continuation; limits

A. * * *

(3) * * *

(b)(i) Has been certified to have graduated from the Youth Challenge Program and earned a ~~general education diploma~~ **high school diploma issued by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education or its equivalent**, and unless granted an exception for cause by the administering agency, has enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the

1 student graduated from the Louisiana National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program,
2 or if the student joins the armed forces of the United States upon graduation has
3 enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution not later than the semester,
4 excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the fifth anniversary
5 of the date that the student graduated from the Louisiana National Guard's Youth
6 ChalleNGe Program.

7 (ii) Effective for the 2020-2021 award year and thereafter, the
8 administering agency may, by rule, provide for an earlier or later initial
9 enrollment date.

10 * * *

11 §3050.3. Administration

12 The GO-Youth ChalleNGe Program shall be under the administration of the
13 ~~Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission~~ Board of Regents, through the
14 office of student financial assistance, which shall ~~prescribe appropriate~~ adopt rules
15 and regulations ~~applicable thereto in accordance with~~ to implement the provisions
16 of this Chapter.

17 * * *

18 §5027. Postsecondary institution enrollment

19 A.(1)(a) Except as otherwise provided by this Section, to be eligible for an
20 award pursuant to this Chapter, the student shall enroll in an eligible college or
21 university as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer
22 semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the
23 student graduated from high school.

24 (b) Effective for the 2020-2021 award year and thereafter, for purposes
25 of eligibility for a TOPS-Tech Award, the administering agency may, by rule,
26 provide for an earlier or later initial enrollment date.

27 * * *

28 Section 2. This Act shall become effective on August 1, 2019; if vetoed by the
29 governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on

1 August 1, 2019, or on the day following such approval by the legislature, whichever is later.

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

DIGEST

SB 203 Original 2019 Regular Session Walsworth

Present law provides for the Grant Opportunity for Youth Challenge Skills Training Program (GO-Youth Challenge) for students who graduate from the La. National Guard's Youth Challenge Program with a general education diploma.

Proposed law extends eligibility to GO-Youth Challenge students who graduate from the La. National Guard's Youth Challenge Program with a BESE-issued diploma.

Present law requires a student to meet certain other eligibility requirements, including enrolling in an eligible postsecondary institution not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date the student graduated from the La. National Guard's Youth Challenge Program.

Proposed law provides that, effective the 2020-2021 award year and thereafter, the administering agency may, by rule, provide for an earlier or later initial enrollment date.

Present law provides for the program to be administered by the La. Student Financial Assistance Commission, and authorizes the commission to prescribe appropriate rules and regulations for the program.

Proposed law clarifies that the administering agency is the Board of Regents, through the office of student financial assistance.

Present law provides for the TOPS-Tech award for students who meet certain curriculum, ACT score, and GPA criteria.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that to be eligible to receive a TOPS-Tech award a student must enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date the student graduated from high school.

Proposed law retains present law but provides that, effective the 2020-2021 award year and thereafter, the administering agency may, by rule, provide for an earlier or later initial enrollment date.

Effective August 1, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 17:3050.2(A)(3)(b), 3050.3 and 5027(A)(1))