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

DIGEST

SB 203 Engrossed

2019 Regular Session

Walsworth

<u>Present law</u> 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 to receive a grant for postsecondary education skills training.

<u>Proposed law</u> extends eligibility to GO-Youth ChalleNGe students who graduate from the La. National Guard's Youth ChalleNGe Program and earned a BESE-issued diploma or its equivalent. Expands postsecondary education options for these students to include a certificate, diploma, or associate or baccalaureate degree required for a high-demand, high-skill, high-wage career.

<u>Present law</u> 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.

<u>Proposed law</u> 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.

<u>Present law</u> 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.

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

<u>Present law</u> provides for the legislature to appropriate funding to cover the grants awarded and the costs for administering the program.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> and includes the costs to provide intensive academic funding to grant recipients.

Effective August 1, 2019.

(Amends R.S. 17:3050.1, 3050.2(A) and (B)(1), 3050.3, and 3050.4)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

- 1. Remove provisions relative to TOPS-Tech.
- 2. Rename grant program.
- 3. Expand use of grant program for additional postsecondary education options.
- 3. Provide funding for intensive academic advising.