SLS 202ES-127

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY SENATOR CATHEY

TOPS. Requests the Board of Regents to study allowing TOPS and GO Grant awards to be used for summer semester immediately following high school graduation.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the Board of Regents to study the feasibility of making TOPS-Tech and
3	GO Grant awards available to low-income students for use during the summer
4	semester immediately following high school graduation.
5	WHEREAS, the Legislature found and declared that a college education should be
6	available to all qualified students, regardless of their financial means; and
7	WHEREAS, the Legislature found that leveraging access to postsecondary education
8	for students with demonstrated financial need ensures that all qualified students are afforded
9	an opportunity to achieve their full educational potential, increase their overall quality of
10	life, and maximize their contribution to the state's economic development; and
11	WHEREAS, the Legislature created the TOPS-Tech Award, which provides financial
12	assistance to eligible students who enroll full-time in an eligible college or university to
13	pursue an academic undergraduate degree or skill or occupational training; and
14	WHEREAS, the Legislature created the GO Grant program to offer enhanced access
15	to postsecondary educational opportunities for Louisiana students with demonstrated
16	financial need by providing critically needed assistance to help cover the cost of attending
17	postsecondary education institutions in the state; and
18	WHEREAS, seventy-five percent of Louisiana's public high school graduates are

1	economically disadvantaged; and
2	WHEREAS, research has shown that many low-income high school seniors who
3	initially plan to go to college fail to enroll in the fall semester due to insufficient financial
4	aid to pay tuition and basic needs; and
5	WHEREAS, making financial aid available in the summer semester immediately
6	following high school graduation enables low-income students to transition directly into
7	career training programs that prepare them for high-demand jobs; and
8	WHEREAS, the TOPS-Tech and GO Grant awards currently do not support students
9	in accessing postsecondary education and training during the summer semester immediately
10	following high school graduation; and
11	WHEREAS, making these financial aid programs available to low-income students
12	sooner could significantly increase their ability to access postsecondary education and
13	training, earn a living wage, and lessen their need for public assistance as adults.
14	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15	urge and request the Board of Regents to study the feasibility of making TOPS-Tech and GO
16	Grant awards available to low-income students for use during the summer semester
17	immediately following high school graduation.
18	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board provide a written report of its findings
19	and recommendations to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on
20	Education not later than March 1, 2021.
21	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be provided to the chair
22	of the Board of Regents and the commissioner of higher education.

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

	DIGEST			
SCR 3 Original	2020 Second Extraordinary Session	Cathey		
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