2022 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 536

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

TOPS: Lowers the minimum ACT score required for initial qualification for a TOPS-Tech Award from 17 to 15

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5024(B) and to enact R.S. 17:5024.1, relative to the Taylor
3	Opportunity Program for Students; to lower the minimum ACT score required for
4	initial qualification for a TOPS-Tech Award; and to provide for related matters.
5	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
6	Section 1. R.S. 17:5024(B) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:5024.1 is
7	hereby enacted to read as follows:
8	§5024. Academic requirements
9	* * *
10	B.(1) Except as otherwise provided by <u>R.S. 17:5024.1, a</u> this Subsection, a
11	student shall earn the following minimum test scores for the respective awards:
12	(a) (1) For an Opportunity Award, a composite score on the 1990 version of
13	the ACT which is at least equal to or higher than the state's average composite score,
14	truncated to a whole number, reported for the prior year but never less than twenty
15	or an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such test or
16	on the SAT.
17	(b) (2) For a Performance Award, a composite score on the 1990 version of
18	the ACT of twenty-three or higher or an equivalent concordant value on any
19	enhanced or revised version of such test or on the SAT.

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1	(c) (3) For an Honors Award, a score of twenty-seven or higher on the 1990
2	version of the ACT or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised
3	version of such test or on the SAT.
4	$\frac{(d)}{(4)}$ For a TOPS-Tech Award, a composite score on the specified ACT of
5	seventeen fifteen or higher or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or
6	revised version of such test or on the SAT. The student may, as an alternative
7	requirement, have attained a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT
8	WorkKeys system.
9	(2)(a) For a student who graduated prior to the 2010-2011 school year, the
10	ACT WorkKeys system is not an alternative assessment for establishing eligibility
11	for a TOPS-Tech Award.
12	(b) For a student who graduated prior to the 2000-2001 school year, the
13	minimum ACT score for a TOPS-Tech Award is nineteen.
14	* * *
15	§5024.1. Academic requirements; exceptions
16	Exceptions to requirements for a TOPS-Tech Award provided in R.S.
17	<u>17:5024(B)(4) are as follows:</u>
18	(1)(a) For a student who graduated during or after the 2000-2001 school year
19	and prior to the 2021-2022 school year, the minimum ACT score for a TOPS-Tech
20	Award is seventeen.
21	(b) For a student who graduated prior to the 2000-2001 school year, the
22	minimum ACT score for a TOPS-Tech Award is nineteen.
23	(2) For a student who graduated prior to the 2010-2011 school year, the ACT
24	WorkKeys system is not an alternative assessment for establishing eligibility for a

25 <u>TOPS-Tech Award.</u>

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 536 Original	2022 Regular Session	Cox

Abstract: Lowers the minimum ACT score required for initial qualification for a TOPS-Tech Award from 17 to 15.

<u>Present law</u> provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as a merit scholarship program for students meeting specific initial eligibility requirements, including attainment of a minimum ACT score, which varies by award level.

<u>Present law</u>, for initial qualification for a TOPS-Tech Award, requires a minimum ACT score of 17. <u>Proposed law</u>, applicable to students graduating from high school during or after the 2021-2022 school year, lowers this score from 17 to 15.

(Amends R.S. 17:5024(B); Adds R.S. 17:5024.1)