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## DIGEST

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HB 219 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Charles Owen

**Abstract:** Removes requirement that students apply for federal aid prior to receiving a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award.

Present law provides for the TOPS award as a merit scholarship program. Requires that students apply for a federal grant prior to receiving a TOPS award unless they can demonstrate that they do not qualify for federal grant aid. Proposed law removes this requirement.

Present law requires the Bd. of Regents to provide by rule for TOPS applications. Proposed law retains present law. Present law authorizes the board to provide an alternative application for students who can demonstrate that they do not qualify for federal grant aid. Proposed law removes present law.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:5062(A)(2); Repeals R.S. 17:5028(B))