

SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2024 Regular Session

Amendments proposed by Senate Committee on Education to Engrossed House Bill No. 728 by Representative Davis

1 AMENDMENT NO. 1

2 On page 1, delete line 2 in its entirety and insert:

3 "To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3047.2(A), 3047.7(B), and 5002(D), (E), (F), and
4 (G), relative"

5 AMENDMENT NO. 2

6 On page 1, at the end of line 4, after "to" insert:

7 "provide for TOPS Tech Award; to provide for the enrollment in any program of
8 study; to provide for a limitation of time for the award to be used; to"

9 AMENDMENT NO. 3

10 On page 1, line 7, change "R.S. 17:3047.2(A)(1) is" to "R.S. 17:3047.2(A), 3047.7(B), and
11 5002(D), (E), (F), and (G) are"

12 AMENDMENT NO. 4

13 On page 1, delete line 11 in its entirety and insert:

- 14 (1) Be at least twenty years old in award year 2024-2025.
- 15 (2) Be at least nineteen years ld in award year 2025-2026.
- 16 (3) Be at least eighteen years old in award year 2026-2027.
- 17 (4) Be at least seventeen years old in award year 2027-2028 and thereafter.
- 18 ~~(2)~~ (5) Have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent or shall co-enroll in a
- 19 qualified program and a program to earn a high school credential that is recognized
- 20 by the state of Louisiana.
- 21 ~~(3)~~ (6) Be a citizen of the United States as defined by the administering agency.
- 22 ~~(4)(a)~~ (7)(a) Be a resident of Louisiana during the twenty-four months preceding the
- 23 date of the application for the award or be a veteran of the United States Armed
- 24 Forces who received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable
- 25 conditions within the twenty-four months preceding the date of application and who
- 26 has become a resident of Louisiana since separation from the United States Armed
- 27 Forces.
- 28 * * *
- 29 ~~(5)~~ (8) Have not previously earned an undergraduate degree at the associate level or
- 30 above.
- 31 ~~(6)~~ (9) Meet any admission requirements of the postsecondary education institution
- 32 and the qualified program.
- 33 ~~(7)~~ (10) Have received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable
- 34 conditions if the applicant served in the United States Armed Forces and separated
- 35 from service.
- 36 ~~(8)(a)~~ (11)(a) Not be incarcerated.
- 37 * * *
- 38 ~~(9)~~ (12) Have applied for federal student aid, unless the qualified program chosen by
- 39 the applicant does not qualify for federal student aid or if the applicant demonstrates
- 40 ineligibility for federal student aid to the administering agency. The administering
- 41 agency may provide by rule alternative methods to determine financial need for
- 42 students who are unable to complete an application for federal student aid due to
- 43 extenuating circumstances as defined by the administering agency. If the applicant
- 44 meets all eligibility requirements except filing the application for federal student aid,

1 the applicant shall be eligible to receive one award payment prior to completion of
 2 the federal student aid application.
 3 ~~(10)~~ (13) Provide the administering agency permission to collect and verify
 4 information relative to the success of the program provided pursuant to this Chapter
 5 including information regarding the applicant's employment before and after
 6 receiving the award.
 7 ~~(11)~~ (14) Agree to reside and work full-time in Louisiana for at least one year after
 8 the completion of the last semester that an award is provided.
 9 ~~(12)~~ (15) Repealed by Acts 2023, No. 287, §2, eff. June 12, 2023.
 10 ~~(13)~~ (16) Have a family income that does not exceed three hundred percent of the
 11 applicable federal poverty guideline as published in the Federal Register by the
 12 United States Department of Health and Human Services or certify unemployment
 13 or underemployment for at least six months prior to receiving the award.

14 AMENDMENT NO. 5

15 On page 1, between lines 12 and 13 insert:

16 "§3047.7. Reporting system; implementation; requirements; applicability;
 17 participation by eligible institutions

18 * * *

19 B. The information reporting system shall include the following:

20 * * *

21 (5) In reporting year 2024-2025 through 2028-2029, data on newly eligible students
 22 by age, being sure to break out new age eligibility categories as provided for in R.S.
 23 17:3047.2(A).

24 * * *

25 §5002. Awards and amounts

26 * * *

27 ~~D.(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection, a student who is eligible for~~
 28 ~~a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter and who is enrolled:~~

29 ~~(a) In an eligible public college or university that does not offer an academic~~
 30 ~~undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level in those associate's degree or other~~
 31 ~~shorter-term training and education programs that are aligned to state workforce~~
 32 ~~priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce~~
 33 ~~Investment Council shall be awarded by the state an amount determined by the~~
 34 ~~administering agency to equal the tuition charged by the college or university during~~
 35 ~~the 2016-2017 academic year. If the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce~~
 36 ~~Investment Council determine that a program is no longer aligned with those~~
 37 ~~priorities, an otherwise eligible student who had previously received an award and~~
 38 ~~enrolled in that program may continue to use the award.~~

39 ~~(b) In an eligible college or university other than as provided for in Subparagraph (a)~~
 40 ~~of this Paragraph in those associate's degree or other shorter-term training education~~
 41 ~~programs that are aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board~~
 42 ~~of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council, shall be awarded by~~
 43 ~~the state an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted~~
 44 ~~average of the tuition amounts charged to students attending an eligible public~~
 45 ~~college or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the~~
 46 ~~baccalaureate level during the 2016-2017 academic year. If the Board of Regents and~~
 47 ~~the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council determine that a program is no longer~~
 48 ~~aligned with those priorities, an otherwise eligible student who had previously~~
 49 ~~received an award and enrolled in that program may continue to use the award.~~

50 ~~(2) A student who graduated prior to the 2016-2017 school year, who is eligible for~~
 51 ~~a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter, and who is enrolled:~~

52 ~~(a) In an eligible college or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate~~
 53 ~~degree at the baccalaureate level, shall be awarded by the state an amount determined~~
 54 ~~by the administering agency to equal the tuition charged by the college or university~~
 55 ~~during the 2016-2017 academic year.~~

56 ~~(b) In an eligible college or university other than as provided for in Subparagraph (a)~~
 57 ~~of this Paragraph shall be awarded by the state an amount determined by the~~
 58 ~~administering agency to equal the weighted average of the tuition amounts charged~~

1 ~~to students attending an eligible public college or university that does not offer an~~
2 ~~academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level during the 2016-2017~~
3 ~~academic year.~~

4 E.(1) D.(1) No student shall be eligible for tuition payment pursuant to this Section
5 for the Opportunity Award, the Performance Award, or the Honors Award for more
6 than eight semesters or an equivalent number of units in an eligible institution which
7 operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters, unless an extension is
8 granted by the administering agency in accordance with its rules.

9 * * *

10 F. E. No student shall receive a grant pursuant to this Section in an amount greater
11 than the tuition charged by the institution attended or, if the student is the recipient
12 of a Performance or an Honors Award as provided for in Subsection C of this
13 Section, the amount stipulated therein. The institution shall credit any amount in
14 excess of the cost of tuition to the student's account to pay room and board or other
15 cost of attendance.

16 G. F. In lieu of the payment of tuition as provided in this Section, any student
17 participating in the program provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the
18 Louisiana National Guard shall receive the tuition exemption as provided therein. In
19 addition to any other payments provided for by R.S. 29:36.1:

20 * * *

21 H. G. In lieu of the payment of tuition as provided in this Section, any student
22 participating in the program provided by R.S. 17:1688 for disabled veterans shall
23 receive the tuition exemption provided in that Section."

24 AMENDMENT NO. 6

25 On page 1, delete line 13 in its entirety

26 AMENDMENT NO. 7

27 On page 1, line 14, change "Section 3." to "Section 2."