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## DIGEST

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HB 275 Original

2025 Regular Session

Berault

**Abstract:** Allows students who qualify for TOPS upon high school graduation but graduate from an out-of-state college or university to apply unused award amounts to medical or dental school in La. and requires repayment unless the student satisfies certain criteria.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), a merit scholarship program for students who meet certain academic criteria in high school and other requirements. Allows award recipients who graduate from college early to apply unused award amounts to postgraduate study.

Proposed law retains present law and allows students to apply unused award amounts if they are enrolled in a doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathic medicine, or doctor of dentistry program in La. during or after the 2024-2025 academic year and have earned an academic baccalaureate degree from an out-of-state college. Applicable to students who qualify for TOPS upon high school graduation regardless of whether they left the state for the entirety of college or used part of their award at a TOPS-eligible college and then transferred out of state. Requires students to pay a sum equaling award amounts and interest thereon unless they are enrolled in a residency program or they practice medicine or dentistry full-time for three consecutive years in La. after residency. Requires the administering agency (the Bd. of Regents) to provide by rule for collecting unpaid amounts and other excepted circumstances relative to payment.

(Adds R.S. 17:5002.1)