The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, 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)]

DIGEST

SB 207 Reengrossed

2025 Regular Session

Carter

<u>Present law</u> provides for a career diploma as an option in high schools and consists of a career major containing academic courses and modern career and technical studies.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that all public high schools provide students with the opportunity to enroll in vocational and technical education courses. Provides that, if the school does not offer the vocational and technical education courses, the school may enter into agreements to partner with other public schools or with one or more public postsecondary two-year institutions of higher education in the state, or with nonprofit proprietary schools approved by BESE to provide available vocational and technical education courses.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that <u>proposed law</u> does not supercede the Course Choice Program that allows La. high school students to take courses beyond their traditional school curriculum, including college and university classes, career and technical education, and internships with private companies.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that, if the high school's approved mission or circular model does not align with providing vocational and technical education courses, the school may request a waiver from both its local governing authority and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) of the requirements of <u>proposed law</u>.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that no student shall be assessed a course fee when the local education agency receives career development funds in the minimum foundation program for such course.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that public high schools are to advise students of the availability of the TOPS Tech Early Start Award for eligible students and are to provide information on the eligibility criteria of the award.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Adds R.S. 17:183.4 and 3996(B)(4))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Change the requirement that schools offer only those vocational and technical courses to only those available courses.

- 2. Change those with whom the partnership agreements may be entered into to provide vocational and technical education.
- 3. Require that public high schools are to advise students of the availability of the TOPS Tech Early Start Award.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

- 1. Add that high schools with a specific mission other than vocational and technical training, may seek a waiver from BESE.
- 2. Prohibit charging students a fee for courses in certain circumstances.
- 3. Makes technical changes.