

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 152 (HB 161)

2025 Regular Session

Hughes

Existing law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), a merit scholarship program for certain students attending certain postsecondary education institutions.

TOPS-Tech

Existing law provides for the TOPS-Tech Award for students who enroll in certain two-year programs. Requires as a requirement for eligibility for TOPS-Tech that a student enroll in certain associate's degree or shorter-term training and education programs.

Prior law provided that the programs were aligned with state workforce priorities as determined by the Bd. of Regents and the La. Workforce Investment Council. New law (R.S. 17:5002(D)(1)) instead requires the programs to be determined by the advisory council established in existing law (R.S. 17:3047.1).

TOPS-Tech Early Start

Existing law provides for a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award for eligible 11th and 12th grade students attending La. public high schools.

Existing law requires a student to meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

- (1) Score at least 15 on the English and mathematics subsections of the ACT PLAN assessment or a successor assessment administered as part of La.'s Educational Planning and Assessment System or the ACT, or equivalent concordant values on the SAT.
- (2) Attain a silver level score on the ACT WorkKeys assessments.

New law adds a third alternative: meeting the eligibility requirements for technical dual enrollment courses as determined by the Bd. of Regents.

Prior law provided that the award may be used at certain postsecondary education institutions for the purpose of pursuing an industry-based occupational or vocational education credential as defined by the Board of Regents when such credential also met both of the following conditions:

- (1) Was identified by the Occupation Forecasting Conference as a credential for an occupation in top demand in La.
- (2) Was recognized by the State Industry-Based Certification Council.

New law (R.S. 5081(B)(1)) instead requires any course taken with the award to be identified by the advisory council established in existing law (R.S. 17:3047.1).

New law applies to awards for the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter.

Effective upon signature of governor (June 8, 2025).

(Amends R.S. 17:5002(D)(1) and 5081(B)(1) and (D)(4); Adds R.S. 17:3047.1(H))