

1 College System, accredited two- or four-year public colleges or universities, or members of
2 the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities to pursue a vocational
3 or technical education certificate, diploma, or non-academic degree program; and

4 WHEREAS, these programs engage a wide network of institutions and workforce
5 training providers, including institutions within the Louisiana Community and Technical
6 College System, Louisiana State University at Eunice, Southern University at Shreveport,
7 approved proprietary schools, and other credentialing providers; and

8 WHEREAS, these programs must remain aligned with industry demand, workforce
9 shortages, and regional economic development priorities in order to maximize the return on
10 investment for the state and its taxpayers; and

11 WHEREAS, an evaluation of the M.J. Foster Promise Program and TOPS-Tech
12 would help determine participation trends, completion outcomes, workforce placement rates,
13 and opportunities for improvement in program delivery and coordination across state
14 agencies; a study and recommendations on state-funded financial aid to simplify, align,
15 streamline, and optimize is crucial to achieving the best return on investment for Louisiana
16 taxpayers.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
18 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents, in coordination
19 with Louisiana Works, the state Department of Education, the Louisiana Community and
20 Technical College System, the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center, and other
21 appropriate stakeholders, to study the effectiveness, utilization, and workforce outcomes of
22 the M.J. Foster Promise Program and the TOPS-Tech Award, including how they align with
23 other financial aid programs, and to report findings to the legislature.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these agencies shall work collaboratively to
25 design the research framework, collect necessary data, and ensure data protection and data
26 security throughout the process.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include but need not be limited
28 to the following:

29 (1) Program participation levels and demographic trends among recipients.

1 (2) The types of credentials, certificates, and training programs funded through each
2 program.

3 (3) Completion and credential attainment rates for program participants.

4 (4) Workforce outcomes, including job placement, wage growth, and retention in
5 high-demand occupations.

6 (5) Program cost comparisons with a return on investment analysis, including
7 estimated state fiscal impact such as tax revenue generated by participants and comparison
8 of program costs to economic outcomes.

9 (6) Possible alignment opportunities between funded programs and current and
10 projected workforce shortages in Louisiana.

11 (7) Recommendations for more efficient coordination between secondary education,
12 postsecondary institutions, and workforce development programs.

13 (8) Recommendations for improving program accessibility, efficiency, and
14 alignment with the workforce needs of employers and the education and training needs of
15 students.

16 (9) Outcomes of program participants disaggregated by age, including but not
17 limited to participants under the age of twenty-one.

18 (10) Comparative analysis of similarly situated individuals who did not receive
19 program funding, including individuals of comparable age, educational attainment, and
20 workforce status, in order to assess differences in employment, earnings, and career
21 progression associated with participation in the M.J. Foster Promise Program and the TOPS-
22 Tech Award.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall provide a
24 comparative analysis of all state-funded financial aid programs including an evaluation of
25 any gaps in financial support that create barriers to participant access.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall submit a written
27 report of its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education, the House
28 Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, and the House Committee on Appropriations,
29 not later than February 15, 2027.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
2 commissioner of higher education, the secretary of Louisiana Works, the state
3 superintendent of education, the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical
4 College System, the executive director of the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy
5 Center, the chair of the Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural
6 and Mechanical College, and the chair of the Board of Supervisors of Southern University
7 and Agricultural and Mechanical College.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

HR 171 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

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Requests the Bd. of Regents, in coordination with La. Works, the state Dept. of Education, La. Community and Technical College System, the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center, and other appropriate stakeholders, to study the effectiveness, utilization, and workforce outcomes of the M.J. Foster Promise Program and the TOPS-Tech Award, including how they align with other financial aid programs, and to report findings to the legislature not later than Feb. 15, 2027.