
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by McHenry Lee.

DIGEST

Present law provides a program of merit scholarships for first time freshman attending public postsecondary institutions or regionally accredited independent colleges or universities in this state who meet a specified GPA, ACT score, and core curriculum requirements as follows:

1. TOPS-Tech Award in the amount of actual tuition for those attending technical colleges.
2. TOPS-Tech Early Start Award in the amount of \$150/three-hour or equivalent time course taken by eligible 11th and 12th grade high school students enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution and pursuing an industry-based occupational or vocational-technical credential.
3. Opportunity Award in the amount of the tuition charged for attendance by a public college or university, or an amount equal to the weighted state average tuition charged by public four-year colleges for attendance at a regionally accredited independent college or university, as determined by the administering agency.
4. Performance Award in the amount of tuition, plus \$200 per semester, for attendance at a public college or university, or the weighted state average tuition charged by public four-year institutions, plus \$200 per semester, for attendance at a regionally accredited independent college or university, as determined by the administering agency.
5. Honors Award in the amount of tuition, plus \$400 per semester, for attendance at a public college or university, or the weighted state average tuition charged by public four-year colleges' tuition, plus \$400 per semester, for attendance at a regionally accredited independent college or university, as determined by the administering agency.

Proposed law retains present law but, beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year, establishes a maximum TOPS award amount as follows:

1. For students attending a public college or university, the maximum tuition award amount shall not exceed 90% of the amount determined by the administering agency to equal the tuition charged by the public college or university attended for the 2011-2012 award year.
2. For students attending an eligible independent college or university, the maximum tuition award amount shall not exceed 90% of the amount determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted state average public institution tuition amount for students attending public colleges or universities in the state for the 2011-2012 award year.

Proposed law specifies that such maximum award amount is exclusive of any additional

payments awarded to students who qualify to receive a Performance or Honors award.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 17:3048.1(Y))