
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

DIGEST

Present law provides that in the event the legislature fails to appropriate sufficient money to fund all awards made to students who qualify for a TOPS award, the administering agency will establish a procedure to reduce the number of students who will receive awards based on ACT scores and the student's ability to pay tuition, as determined by federal guidelines for determining student financial need.

Provides that the first cohort of students eliminated will be those who score lowest on the ACT. Further provides that within this cohort, those students whose families are most able to pay the student's tuition will be eliminated first. If funding is still insufficient after the elimination of all students in this cohort, this procedure will be repeated with each succeeding score cohort.

Provides that among students so denied their awards, students whose families have the least capacity to pay shall be the first to receive their awards if monies become available. Students for whom the expected family contribution cannot be determined shall be denied their award until the legislature appropriates sufficient monies to fund all awards to qualifying students.

Proposed law deletes these provisions and instead provides that in the event the legislature appropriates insufficient money to fully fund all awards made to qualifying students, the administering agency will reduce the amount of the award for each qualifying student equitably, on a pro rata basis, so that every student receives the award for which he qualifies and the total amount of all awards in any academic year does not exceed the funds available to the agency, either from legislative appropriation or other sources of funding.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(N))