

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 260

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Lowers the minimum ACT score required for initial TOPS-Tech Award eligibility from 17 to 16

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(2)(introductory paragraph) and (a), relative to the  
3 Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to provide relative to initial eligibility  
4 requirements for the TOPS-Tech Award; to lower the minimum standardized test  
5 score required; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(2)(introductory paragraph) and (a) are hereby amended  
8 and reenacted to read as follows:

9 §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

10 \* \* \*

11 B.

12 \* \* \*

13 (2) As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, for  
14 ~~students graduating from high school through the 1999-2000 school year the state~~  
15 ~~shall award an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the actual~~  
16 ~~cost of tuition of any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in a Louisiana public~~  
17 ~~postsecondary institution to pursue skill or occupational training, including a~~  
18 ~~vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic~~  
19 ~~undergraduate degree, and who meets the following qualifications and all other~~  
20 ~~applicable qualifications of this Chapter and for students graduating from high~~

1        ~~school during the 2000-2001 school year and thereafter~~ the state shall award an  
 2        amount determined by the administering agency in accordance with the provisions  
 3        of Subparagraph (f) of this Paragraph for any student who enrolls on a full-time basis  
 4        in an eligible college or university as defined in Subsection A of this Section to  
 5        pursue skill or occupational training as defined by the Board of Regents, including  
 6        a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic  
 7        undergraduate degree, and who meets the following qualifications and all other  
 8        applicable qualifications of this Chapter:

9                ~~(a)(i) For any student graduating from high school through the 1999-2000~~  
 10                ~~school year, complies with the provisions of Subparagraphs (A)(1)(a) and (b) of this~~  
 11                ~~Section, except that enrollment shall be in a Louisiana public postsecondary~~  
 12                ~~institution and except that the student shall have a composite score on the specified~~  
 13                ~~American College Test of nineteen or higher or an equivalent concordant value on~~  
 14                ~~any enhanced or revised version of such test or on the Scholastic Aptitude Test.~~

15                ~~(ii) For any student graduating from high school during the 2000-2001~~  
 16                ~~school year and thereafter, complies~~ Complies with the provisions of Subparagraphs  
 17                (A)(1)(a) and (b) of this Section, except that the student shall have a composite score  
 18                on the specified American College Test of ~~seventeen~~ sixteen or higher or an  
 19                equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised version of such test or on  
 20                the Scholastic Aptitude Test. ~~For any student graduating from high school during~~  
 21                ~~the 2010-2011 school year and thereafter, the~~ The student may, as an alternative  
 22                requirement, have attained a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT  
 23                WorkKeys system.

\* \* \*

25        Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 26        signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 27        by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 28        vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 29        effective on the day following such approval.

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**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)]

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Cox

HB No. 260

**Abstract:** Lowers the minimum ACT score required for initial TOPS-Tech Award eligibility from 17 to 16.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as a program of merit scholarships for students attending certain postsecondary education institutions who meet specific grade point average, ACT score, and core curriculum requirements and certain other qualifications. Provides for the TOPS-Tech Award for students who enroll in certain colleges or universities to pursue skill or occupational training, including vocational or technical education certificates or diploma programs or nonacademic undergraduate degrees. For initial eligibility for the TOPS-Tech Award, a student must have a composite ACT score (or equivalent SAT score) of at least 17 or attain a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system.

Proposed law lowers the minimum ACT score (or equivalent SAT score) required for initial TOPS-Tech Award eligibility from 17 to 16 and otherwise retains present law.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(2)(intro. para.) and (a))