

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 510

BY REPRESENTATIVE GREENE

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Increases the ACT score and grade point average required for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students Opportunity Award

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(b)(i), relative to the Taylor Opportunity
3 Program for Students; to provide relative to requirements for an Opportunity Award;
4 and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(b)(i) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as
7 follows:

8 §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

9 A.(1) As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, the
10 state shall financially assist any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in a public
11 college or university in this state or a regionally accredited independent college or
12 university in the state that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent
13 Colleges and Universities, hereafter in this Chapter referred to collectively as
14 "eligible colleges and universities", to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or,
15 as provided by this Subsection, skill or occupational training as defined by the Board
16 of Regents, including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma
17 program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the qualifications
18 of Subparagraph (b), (c), or (d) of this Paragraph and all of the applicable following
19 qualifications:

20 * * *

1 (b)(i) Has been certified as provided in Subsection D of this Section to have
2 graduated from a public high school or a nonpublic high school which has been
3 approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, has a
4 minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale for
5 students graduating during the 2015-2016 school year or before or 2.75 for students
6 graduating during the 2016-2017 school year or thereafter, has a composite score on
7 the 1990 version of the American College Test which is ~~at least~~ equal to or higher
8 than the state's average composite score, rounded to the nearest whole number,
9 reported for the prior year but never less than twenty for students graduating during
10 the 2015-2016 school year or before and never less than twenty-one for students
11 graduating during the 2016-2017 school year or thereafter or an equivalent
12 concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such test or on the Scholastic
13 Aptitude Test, and, unless granted an exception for cause by the administering
14 agency, has enrolled in an eligible college or university as a first-time freshman not
15 later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately
16 following the first anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high
17 school or, if the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one year after
18 graduating from high school, has enrolled in an eligible college or university as a
19 first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or
20 sessions, immediately following the fifth anniversary of the date that the student
21 graduated from high school; however, effective for the 1996-1997 school year and
22 thereafter, if, on or prior to the fifth anniversary of the date that the student graduated
23 from high school, the student reenlists in the United States Armed Forces and
24 maintains continuous active duty, the five-year period shall be extended to the
25 semester immediately following the one-year anniversary of the student's separation
26 from active duty service. As distinguished from all other students qualifying for this
27 program, a student who meets the requirements of this Subparagraph shall be the
28 recipient of an "Opportunity Award" for the purposes of this program.

29 * * *

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)]

Greene

HB No. 510

Abstract: Revises the TOPS program with respect to requisite GPA and ACT scores for an "Opportunity Award".

Present law provides relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS). Further provides with respect to certain qualifications for participation in the program.

Present law requires that students have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 and an American College Test (ACT) score equal to the state's average composite score, but never less than 20 to receive a TOPS "Opportunity Award". Proposed law, beginning in 2017, increases requisite grade point average to 2.75 and ACT score to 21 for such an award; otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(b)(i))