
DIGEST

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Katrina Jackson

HB No. 977

Abstract: Provides relative to eligibility requirements for participation in the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS).

Present law provides with respect to the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS). Under the program, the state shall financially assist any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in a public college or university or a regionally accredited independent college or university to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or skill or occupational training, and who meets the qualifications of present law.

Present law provides general requirements for participation in the TOPS program. Requires students to have graduated from a public high school or a nonpublic high school which has been approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Also requires that students be enrolled in an eligible college or university as a first-time freshman not later than the semester immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high school.

Present law provides with respect to the "Opportunity Award." Requires that the student has a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50. Further requires that the student has a composite score on the American College Test (ACT) which is at least equal to or higher than the state's average composite score reported for the prior year but never less than 20 or an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such test or on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

Proposed law changes required minimum grade point average to 3.00. Also deletes the minimum ACT score of 20 and replaces it with the average composite score reported for students enrolled during the prior year at the institution at which the student is enrolled.

Present law provides with respect to the "Performance Award." Requires that the student has a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.50. Further requires that the student has a composite score on the ACT of 23 or higher or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised version of such test or on the SAT.

Proposed law deletes minimum ACT score of 23 and replaces it with requirement that the minimum ACT score should be at least the average composite score reported for students enrolled during the prior year at which the student is enrolled or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised version of such test or on the SAT.

Present law provides with respect to the "Honors Award." Requires that the student has a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.50 and a score of 27 or higher on the ACT or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised version of such test or on the SAT.

Proposed law changes minimum grade point average to 3.70 and deletes the minimum ACT score of 27 and replaces it with requirement that the minimum ACT score should be at least the average composite score reported for students enrolled during the prior year at which the student is enrolled or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised version of such test or on the SAT.

Otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(b)(i), (c)(i)(aa), and (d)(i))