

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 991

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Provides relative to Tulane University scholarships granted to students pursuant to nominations by state legislators

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:1891, relative to Tulane scholarships; to provide relative to continued
3 eligibility for such awards; to place certain residency or repayment requirements on
4 recipients of program awards; to authorize the use of funds for postgraduate study
5 if certain conditions are met; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:1891 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §1891. Tulane University; free tuition for students nominated by members of the
9 legislature; requirements

10 A.(1) A student who receives free tuition pursuant to Act No. 43 of the 1884
11 Regular Session of the Legislature as amended who first enrolls at Tulane University
12 for or during the 2014-2015 academic year or thereafter shall pursue a degree that
13 would qualify him for employment in a four or five star job, on a statewide basis, as
14 defined by the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

15 (2) In order to maintain continued eligibility for receipt of such free tuition,
16 once enrolled a student shall continue pursuit of a degree that would qualify him for
17 employment in a four or five star job, on a statewide basis, as defined by the
18 Louisiana Workforce Commission. Notwithstanding any provision of this Paragraph
19 to the contrary, a student shall remain eligible to receive the award if after he enrolls
20 in but before he completes the degree that would qualify him for employment in such
21 four or five star job, the job is no longer defined as a four or five star job.

1 B.(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Act No. 43 of the 1884 Regular
2 Session of the Legislature or any agreement entered pursuant thereto, an otherwise
3 qualified student who meets each of the following conditions may receive free tuition
4 to pursue a postgraduate academic degree in a field of study that qualifies the student
5 for employment after graduation in a four or five star job, on a statewide basis, as
6 defined by the Louisiana Workforce Commission:

7 (a) The student first enrolled as a full-time postsecondary student in an
8 out-of-state college or university that is accredited by a regional accrediting
9 organization recognized by the United States Department of Education and remains
10 enrolled in and graduates from the college or university.

11 (b) The student graduated from high school during the 2010-2011 school
12 year or thereafter.

13 (2) A student may receive the free tuition to pursue a postgraduate degree for
14 not more than three academic years and shall not receive free tuition for any term
15 that begins more than seven years after the student graduated from high school.

16 C.(1) For a recipient of an award pursuant to this Section who first enrolls
17 at Tulane University for or during the 2014-2015 academic year or thereafter, upon
18 completion of a bachelor's or postgraduate degree, as applicable, such recipient shall
19 do one of the following:

20 (a) Reside in Louisiana for at least one year for each full academic year of
21 free tuition received pursuant to this Section.

22 (b) Repay to Tulane University a full academic year of free tuition for each
23 year he fails to comply with Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph.

24 (2) If such student loses eligibility to continue receiving free tuition for any
25 reason other than completion of a degree, he shall repay all amounts equal to the free
26 tuition he received.

27 (3) If such student is required to repay tuition pursuant to this Subsection,
28 he shall:

1 (a) Repay amounts in the reverse order from that in which they were
2 received.

3 (b) Repay one year of tuition within each calendar year until all awards have
4 been repaid; the student shall not be required to pay any interest on amounts owed
5 if they are paid in accordance with this Subparagraph.

6 (4) If such student is required to repay tuition pursuant to this Subsection,
7 he may defer such repayment and no interest shall accrue:

8 (a) While he is a full time student pursuing an associate, undergraduate, or
9 graduate degree.

10 (b) While he is engaged in active duty service with the United States
11 military.

12 (5) The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to a student who
13 completes a degree at Tulane University and accepts employment and remains
14 employed in any of the following for at least four years:

15 (a) Government service including military service.

16 (b) Employment with a company that is based in Louisiana.

17 (c) Employment with a nonprofit organization that qualifies as tax-exempt
18 pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

19 (6) Tulane University may adopt policies necessary to implement the
20 provisions of this Subsection. Such policies shall include provision for all available
21 means of collecting amounts owed and interest on unpaid amounts

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)]

Hunter

HB No. 991

Abstract: Authorizes the use of Tulane legislative scholarships for postgraduate studies in certain circumstances; places course of study requirements on recipients; and requires a recipient to repay awards unless the recipient completes a bachelor's or postgraduate degree and resides in La. for at least one year for each year of award received.

Present law (Act No. 43 of the 1884 Regular Session of the Legislature, as amended) establishes free tuition to Tulane University in New Orleans for students nominated by members of the legislature. Proposed law retains present law.

Course of Study and Continuing Eligibility

Proposed law requires each student who first enrolls at Tulane University for or during the 2014-2015 academic year or thereafter and who receives free tuition pursuant to present law to pursue a degree that would qualify him for employment in a four or five star job, on a statewide basis, as defined by the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC). Further provides that in order to maintain eligibility for such free tuition, the student must continue pursuit of such a degree. Proposed law provides that the student shall remain eligible for free tuition if after the student enrolls in but before he completes the degree that would qualify him for such four or five star job, the job is no longer defined as four or five stars by the LWC.

Use of Award for Postgraduate Study

Present law authorizes use of the legislative scholarship award for tuition related to the pursuit of a bachelor's degree.

Proposed law provides that an otherwise qualified student who meets both of the following conditions may use a legislative scholarship award to pursue a postgraduate academic degree at Tulane University:

- (1) The student first enrolled as a postsecondary student in and graduated from an out-of-state college or university accredited by a regional accrediting organization recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education.
- (2) The student graduated from high school during the 2010-2011 school year or thereafter.

Provides that the student may continue to receive the award if he pursues a degree that would qualify him for employment in a four or five star job, on a statewide basis, as defined by the Louisiana Workforce Commission. Further provides that a student shall remain eligible to receive the award if, after he enrolls in but before he completes the degree that would qualify him for employment in such four or five star job, the job is no longer defined as a four or five star job.

Permits student to receive the award for not more than three academic years or the equivalent number of semesters or quarters; prohibits receipt of the award for a term that begins more than seven years after high school graduation.

Repayment of Award Amounts

Proposed law provides that for a recipient who first enrolls at Tulane for or during the 2014-2015 academic year or thereafter, upon completion of a bachelor's or postgraduate degree, such former recipient of an award shall either reside in La for at least one year for each year of award he received or repay one year of award for each year he fails to meet this residency requirement. Requires a student who loses eligibility to receive awards to repay amounts received.

Proposed law requires that the student repay amounts in the reverse order from that in which they were received and repay one year of awards within each calendar year until all awards have been repaid. Authorizes deferral of repayment for full-time students and those engaged in military service. Waives the repayment requirement for a student who completes a degree and works for at least four years in any of the following: government service including military service; for a La.-based company; or for a nonprofit organization.

Proposed law authorizes Tulane University to promulgate rules necessary to implement proposed law, including provision for collecting amounts owed and interest on unpaid amounts.

(Adds R.S. 17:1891)