

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE BILL NO. 98

BY SENATOR NEVERS

TOPS. Provides that a five-point scale shall be used when calculating the grade point average for certain honors courses and talented courses. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(b)(ii)(bb), (c)(ii)(bb), and (d)(ii)(bb), relative
3 to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to provide with respect to the
4 method used to calculate the grade point average required for program awards; to
5 provide that a five-point scale shall be used to calculate the grade point average for
6 certain honors and gifted and talented courses; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(b)(ii)(bb), (c)(ii)(bb), and (d)(ii)(bb) are hereby
9 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10 §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

11 A.(1) As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, the
12 state shall financially assist any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in a public
13 college or university in this state or a regionally accredited independent college or
14 university in the state that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent
15 Colleges or Universities, hereafter in this Chapter referred to collectively as "eligible
16 colleges or universities", to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or, as provided
17 by this Subsection, skill or occupational training as defined by the Board of Regents,

1 including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a
 2 nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the qualifications of
 3 Subparagraph (b), (c), or (d) of this Paragraph and all of the applicable following
 4 qualifications:

5 * * *

6 (b)(ii) * * *

7 (bb) Beginning with students graduating in the 2017-2018 school year and
 8 thereafter, the calculation of the minimum cumulative grade point average specified
 9 in Item (i) of this Subparagraph shall utilize a five-point scale for grades earned in
 10 certain Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, gifted **and**
 11 **talented** courses, **honors courses**, and dual enrollment courses as approved by the
 12 Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education,
 13 which may result in a student earning a cumulative grade point average that exceeds
 14 4.00. For such courses, five quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "A",
 15 four quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "B", three quality points shall
 16 be assigned to a letter grade of "C", two quality points shall be assigned to a letter
 17 grade of "D", and zero quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "F".

18 * * *

19 (c)(ii) * * *

20 (bb) Beginning with students graduating in the 2017-2018 school year and
 21 thereafter, the calculation of the minimum cumulative grade point average specified
 22 in Item (i) of this Subparagraph shall utilize a five-point scale for grades earned in
 23 certain Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, gifted **and**
 24 **talented** courses, **honors courses**, and dual enrollment courses as approved by the
 25 Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education,
 26 which may result in a student earning a cumulative grade point average that exceeds
 27 4.00. For such courses, five quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "A",
 28 four quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "B", three quality points shall
 29 be assigned to a letter grade of "C", two quality points shall be assigned to a letter

1 grade of "D", and zero quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "F".

2 * * *

3 (d)(ii) * * *

4 (bb) Beginning with students graduating in the 2017-2018 school year and
5 thereafter, the calculation of the minimum cumulative grade point average specified
6 in Item (i) of this Subparagraph shall utilize a five-point scale for grades earned in
7 certain Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, gifted **and**
8 **talented** courses, **honors courses**, and dual enrollment courses as approved by the
9 Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education,
10 which may result in a student earning a cumulative grade point average that exceeds
11 4.00. For such courses, five quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "A",
12 four quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "B", three quality points shall
13 be assigned to a letter grade of "C", two quality points shall be assigned to a letter
14 grade of "D", and zero quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "F".

15 * * *

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

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

DIGEST

Nevers (SB 98)

Present law provides that the minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) required for a student to be eligible for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity, Performance, or Honors award shall be calculated using only the grades obtained by the student in courses contained in the TOPS core curriculum as prescribed by present law.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that, beginning with students graduating in the 2017-18 school year, TOPS GPA calculation shall utilize a five-point scale for grades earned in certain Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), gifted courses, and dual enrollment courses as approved by the Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and

Secondary Education (BESE). Further provides that for such courses, five quality points shall be assigned to an "A", four quality points shall be assigned to a "B", three quality points shall be assigned to a "C", two quality points shall be assigned to a "D", and zero quality points shall be assigned to an "F".

Proposed law retains present law and additionally provides that the TOPS GPA calculation shall also utilize a five-point scale for honors courses and talented courses.

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

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Provides that the GPA for talented courses shall also be computed on a five-point scale for TOPS purposes.