

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 1115

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Provides relative to high school core curriculum requirements with respect to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(f)(introductory paragraph) and (iv), relative to  
3 the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to provide relative to the high school  
4 core curriculum required for initial eligibility for a program award; and to provide  
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(f)(introductory paragraph) and (iv) are hereby  
8 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

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

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

21 \* \* \*

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 (f) Except as otherwise provided by this Section and beginning with students  
2 graduating in the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter, meets the standards for  
3 admission to the desired college or university and has successfully completed a core  
4 curriculum which consists of nineteen units of high school course work, or eighteen  
5 and one-half units as provided in Item (iv) of this Subparagraph, as follows:

6 \* \* \*

7 (iv) Social Studies - Four Units or Three and One-Half Units, if a one-half  
8 unit course from Subsubitem (bb)(II) of this Item is completed.

9 (aa) One unit chosen from the following: ~~U.S.~~ US History, AP US History,  
10 or IB US History.

11 (bb) One of the following:

12 (I) One-half unit of Government and one-half unit of Economics.

13 (II) One-half unit chosen from the following: Government, of AP US  
14 Government and Politics: Comparative. ~~or~~

15 (III) One-half unit of AP US Government and Politics: United States.

16 (cc) (IV) One-half unit chosen from the following: Economics, of AP  
17 Macroeconomics, or and one-half unit of AP Microeconomics.

18 (dd) (V) One unit of Civics may be substituted to satisfy the combined  
19 subject matter requirements enumerated in Subitems (bb) and (cc) of this Item.

20 (ee) (cc) Two units chosen from the following: Western Civilization,  
21 European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human  
22 Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History  
23 IB; History of Religion; IB Economics.

24 \* \* \*

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)]

Thompson

HB No. 1115

**Abstract:** Provides that certain Advanced Placement ½-unit courses shall "count" for one unit for purposes of the high school core curriculum that students must complete to be eligible for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) awards.

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 that students graduating from high school during the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter, in addition to meeting other eligibility requirements, must successfully complete 19 units of specified course work that constitutes a core curriculum, including four units in social studies. (See table.)

Proposed law, for a student who completes a ½-unit Advanced Placement (AP) Government and Politics course, reduces the total number of required core curriculum units from 19 to 18.5, and the total number of social studies units from four to 3.5 by revising the social studies requirements as follows:

Present law	Proposed law
One unit of <u>U.S.</u> History, AP US History, or IB US History	Retains <u>present law</u> .
½ unit of Government, AP US Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP US Government and Politics: United States AND ½ unit of Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics  Or  One unit of Civics	½ unit of Government AND ½ unit of Economics  Or  ½ unit of AP US Government & Politics: Comparative OR ½ unit of AP US Government & Politics: United States  Or  ½ unit of AP Macroeconomics AND ½ unit of AP Microeconomics  Or  One unit of Civics.
Two units chosen from the following: Western Civilization, European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics.	Retains <u>present law</u> .

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(f)(intro. para.) and (iv))