HLS 14RS-1642 REENGROSSED

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 1115

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

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

1 AN ACT 2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:274.1(A) and (B)(1) and 3048.1(A)(1)(f)(iv), relative to the 3 Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to provide relative to the high school core 4 curriculum required for initial eligibility for a program award; to authorize the State 5 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to designate course equivalencies for 6 certain courses required for high school graduation for purposes of alignment with 7 such core curriculum; and to provide for related matters. 8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana: 9 Section 1. R.S. 17:274.1(A) and (B)(1) and 3048.1(A)(1)(f)(iv) are hereby amended 10 and reenacted to read as follows: 11 §274.1. Civics and Free Enterprise; required; exceptions 12 A. All Except as provided in Subparagraph (B)(1)(b) of this Section, all 13 public high schools shall give instruction in Civics and Free Enterprise as a 14 prerequisite to graduation. Instruction shall be given in accordance with the course of study prescribed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as 15 16 provided in this Section. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education 17 shall prescribe suitable teaching materials for the instruction. 18 B.(1)(a) For students who enter the ninth grade on or after July 1, 2011, 19 instruction in Civics shall be given for two semesters, equal to one unit of credit; 20 such instruction shall include a section on Free Enterprise.

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CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

1	(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph,
2	the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education may designate course
3	equivalencies for Civics in order to ensure the alignment of graduation requirements
4	with the core curriculum requirements for the Taylor Opportunity Program for
5	Students provided in R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(f)(iv).
6	* * *
7	§3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration
8	A.(1) As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, the
9	state shall financially assist any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in a public
10	college or university in this state or a regionally accredited independent college or
11	university in the state that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent
12	Colleges and Universities, hereafter in this Chapter referred to collectively as
13	"eligible colleges and universities", to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or,
14	as provided by this Subsection, skill or occupational training as defined by the Board
15	of Regents, including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma
16	program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the qualifications
17	of Subparagraph (b), (c), or (d) of this Paragraph and all of the applicable following
18	qualifications:
19	* * *
20	(f) Except as otherwise provided by this Section and beginning with students
21	graduating in the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter, meets the standards for
22	admission to the desired college or university and has successfully completed a core
23	curriculum which consists of nineteen units of high school course work, as follows:
24	* * *
25	(iv) Social Studies - Four Units
26	(aa) One unit chosen from the following: U.S. History, AP US History, or
27	IB US History.

1	(bb) One-half One unit chosen from the following: Government, AP US
2	Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP US Government and Politics: United
3	States-,
4	(cc) One-half unit chosen from the following: Economics, AP
5	Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics.
6	(dd)(cc) One unit of Civics may be substituted to satisfy the combined subject
7	matter requirements enumerated in Subitems Subitem (bb) and (cc) of this Item.
8	(ee)(dd) Two units chosen from the following: Western Civilization,
9	European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human
10	Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History
11	IB; History of Religion; IB Economics.
12	* * *

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: Authorizes BESE to designate course equivalencies for Civics for the purpose of aligning graduation requirements with TOPS core curriculum requirements in social studies and provides relative to social studies course options in such core curriculum.

Present law requires all public high schools to give instruction in Civics and Free Enterprise as a prerequisite to graduation. Requires that instruction in Civics be given for two semesters, equal to one unit of credit, and include a section on Free Enterprise.

Proposed law authorizes the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, notwithstanding present law, to designate course equivalencies for Civics in order to ensure the alignment of graduation requirements with the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) core curriculum requirements for social studies.

Present law provides for 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 2017-18 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. Proposed law retains the course names and total number of units for social studies but revises the number of units for certain courses, as follows:

Present law requires:

- (1) One unit of U.S. History, AP US History, or IB US History.
- (2) 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.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u> in (1) and (2).

<u>Present law</u> requires 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; authorizes one unit of Civics as an alternative to completing two of these ½-unit courses. <u>Proposed law</u> revises <u>present law</u> to provide for one unit of any of these courses and retains the option of the substitution of one unit of Civics.

(Amends R.S. 17:274.1(A) and (B)(1) and 3048.1(A)(1)(f)(iv))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

- 1. Authorizes BESE to designate course equivalencies for Civics for the purpose of aligning graduation requirements with TOPS requirements.
- 2. Relative to the high school core curriculum required for TOPS eligibility:
 - (a) Deletes <u>proposed law</u> that would have reduced the number of social studies units a student must complete <u>from</u> four <u>to</u> three and ½ if he completes certain AP courses.
 - (b) Retains the <u>present law</u> course names and overall number of units students must complete in social studies but changes the authorized distribution of units among government and economics courses.