

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 1115

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: 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
15 of study prescribed by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as
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.

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.

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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.

Proposed law retains present law in (1) and (2).

Present law 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. Proposed law revises present law 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 HouseHouse 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 proposed law that would have reduced the number of social studies units a student must complete from four to three and ½ if he completes certain AP courses.
 - (b) Retains the present law 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.