

1 eligibility throughout college, and pursuing courses of study that will best enable them to
2 have successful careers in Louisiana; and

3 WHEREAS, sustaining a well-educated, highly skilled, and productive workforce
4 is critical to the economic growth of this state; and

5 WHEREAS, every effort must be made to address the current and future workforce
6 needs of the state and to empower TOPS recipients to succeed both in college and in the
7 workforce.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9 urge and request the Board of Regents, in collaboration with the Patrick F. Taylor
10 Foundation, the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, each public postsecondary
11 education management board, the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education,
12 Louisiana Department of Economic Development, the Louisiana Workforce Commission,
13 the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, and any other entity the Board of
14 Regents deems appropriate, to study certain issues relative to the Taylor Opportunity
15 Program for Students (TOPS), which shall include but need not be limited to the following:

16 (1) Measures that may be taken in order to align the granting of TOPS awards with
17 the meeting of Louisiana's workforce needs.

18 (2) Facilitating the efforts of guidance counselors with respect to counseling students
19 about TOPS before they enter high school and while they are in high school.

20 (3) Establishing a "Total Louisiana" workforce counseling program in which each
21 high school student receives personalized guidance counseling on how his skills and
22 aptitudes, as indicated by standardized tests and any other evaluation tool, best align with
23 Louisiana employment opportunities, as indicated by the Louisiana Workforce
24 Commission's evaluation of areas of economic growth, and a career plan is developed for
25 the student such that the TOPS scholarship can be invested in an education path that meets
26 the needs of Louisiana's economy and leads to lifelong employment and residency in
27 Louisiana.

28 (4) The cost of TOPS thus far and projected future costs, degrees obtained by TOPS
29 recipients, the number of TOPS recipients who lose their awards, and the number of TOPS
30 recipients who do not graduate.

1 (5) Relative to TOPS-Tech, the feasibility of lowering the minimum ACT score
2 required for initial eligibility and eliminating chemistry courses from the core curriculum
3 required for initial eligibility.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall submit a written
5 report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation,
6 to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than
7 sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
9 to the chairman of the Board of Regents, the commissioner of higher education, Phyllis M.
10 Taylor, the executive director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, the
11 chairman of each public postsecondary education management board, the president of the
12 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the secretary of the Louisiana
13 Department of Economic Development, the executive director of the Louisiana Workforce
14 Commission, and the president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.

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)]

Cox

HCR No. 173

Requests that the Bd. of Regents, in collaboration with the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, La. Office of Student Financial Assistance, public postsecondary education management boards, State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, La. Dept. of Economic Development, La. Workforce Commission, La. Assoc. of Business and Industry, and any other entity the Bd. of Regents deems appropriate, study certain issues relative to TOPS. Such issues shall include but need not be limited to the following:

- (1) Measures that may be taken in order to align the granting of TOPS awards with the meeting of workforce needs.
- (2) Facilitating the efforts of guidance counselors with respect to counseling students about TOPS before they enter high school and while they are in high school.
- (3) Establishing a "Total Louisiana" workforce counseling program in which each high school student will receive personalized guidance counseling on how his skills and aptitudes best align with La. employment opportunities.
- (4) The cost of TOPS thus far and projected future costs, degrees obtained by TOPS recipients, the number of TOPS recipients who lose their awards, and the number of TOPS recipients who do not graduate.

- (5) Relative to TOPS-Tech, the feasibility of lowering the minimum ACT score and of eliminating chemistry courses from the core curriculum required for initial eligibility.

Further requests that the Bd. of Regents submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House and Senate education committees not later than 60 days prior to the 2015 R.S.