

1 education institutions who meet a specific grade point average, ACT score, and core
2 curriculum requirements and certain other qualifications; and

3 WHEREAS, there is a need to create a better alignment between the abilities of
4 college graduates and the needs of business and industry; and

5 WHEREAS, there is some concern that many students are not equipped with the
6 knowledge they need in terms of qualifying for initial TOPS eligibility, maintaining such
7 eligibility throughout college, and pursuing courses of study that will best enable them to
8 have successful careers in Louisiana; and

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

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

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 urge and request the Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
16 Education (BESE), in collaboration with the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, the Louisiana
17 Office of Student Financial Assistance, each public postsecondary education management
18 board, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, the Louisiana Workforce
19 Commission, the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, the Louisiana Association
20 of School Superintendents, the Louisiana Association of Educators, the Louisiana Federation
21 of Teachers, the Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana, the Louisiana School
22 Boards Association, the parent of a high school student selected by the president of BESE,
23 the parent of a college student selected by the chairman of the Board of Regents, and any
24 other person or entity the Board of Regents and BESE deem appropriate, to study certain
25 issues relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), which shall include
26 but need not be limited to the following:

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

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

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

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

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

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents and BESE shall submit
16 jointly a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for
17 related legislation, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on
18 Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2015 Regular Session of the
19 Legislature of Louisiana.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
21 to the chairman of the Board of Regents, the commissioner of higher education, Phyllis M.
22 Taylor, the executive director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, the
23 chairman of each public postsecondary education management board, the president of the
24 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the secretary of the Louisiana
25 Department of Economic Development, the executive director of the Louisiana Workforce
26 Commission, and the respective presidents of the Louisiana Association of Business and
27 Industry, the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, the Louisiana Association
28 of Educators, the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, the Associated Professional Educators
29 of Louisiana, and the Louisiana School Boards Association.

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)]

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Requests that the Bd. of Regents and the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), in collaboration with the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, La. Office of Student Financial Assistance, public postsecondary education management boards, La. Dept. of Economic Development, La. Workforce Commission, La. Assoc. of Business and Industry, La. Assoc. of School Superintendents, La. Assoc. of Educators, La. Federation of Teachers, Associated Professional Educators of La., La. School Boards Assoc., the parent of a high school student selected by the BESE president, the parent of a college student selected by the Bd. of Regents chairman, and any other person or entity the Bd. of Regents and BESE deem 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 and BESE submit jointly 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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original resolution.

1. Instead of including BESE among the entities with which the Bd. of Regents is requested to collaborate on the study, requests the Bd. of Regents and BESE conduct the study (in collaboration with the others) and submit the report to the legislature jointly.
2. Adds the following to the list of collaborators: La. Assoc. of School Superintendents, La. Assoc. of Educators, La. Federation of Teachers, Associated Professional Educators of La., La. School Boards Assoc., the parent of a high school student selected by the BESE president, and the parent of a college student selected by the Bd. of Regents chairman.