

**HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

2015 Regular Session

Substitute for Original House Bill No. 546 by Representative Price as proposed by the House Committee on Education

**This document reflects the content of a substitute bill but is not in a bill form; page numbers in this document DO NOT correspond to page numbers in the substitute bill itself.**

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(2)(introductory paragraph) and (4)(b), relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to provide relative to the use of TOPS-Tech awards; to provide that such awards may be used only for certain degrees and programs as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(2)(introductory paragraph) and (4)(b) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

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

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B.

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(2) As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, for students graduating from high school through the 1999-2000 school year the state shall award an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the actual cost of tuition of any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution to pursue skill or occupational training, including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the following qualifications and all other applicable qualifications of this Chapter, ~~and for~~ For students graduating from high school during the 2000-2001 school year ~~and thereafter~~ through the 2015-2016 school year, the state shall award an amount determined by the administering agency in accordance with the provisions of Subparagraph (f) of this Paragraph for any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in an eligible college or university as defined

in Subsection A of this Section to pursue skill or occupational training as defined by the ~~Board of Regents~~ administering agency, including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the ~~following~~ qualifications of this Paragraph and all other applicable qualifications of this Chapter: . For students graduating from high school during the 2016-2017 school year and thereafter, the state shall award an amount determined by the administering agency in accordance with the provisions of Subparagraph (f) of this Paragraph for any student who meets the qualifications of this Paragraph and all other applicable qualifications of this Chapter and who enrolls on a full-time basis in those associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education programs that are aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council of an eligible college or university as defined in Subsection A of this Subsection. If the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council determine that such a program is no longer aligned with such priorities, an otherwise eligible student who had previously received an award and enrolled in that program may continue to use the award.

\* \* \*

(4)

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(b)(i) For a student who graduates from high school prior to the 2016-2017 school year, who is the recipient of a TOPS-Tech award, and who enrolls in a school that is eligible pursuant to the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph to pursue skill or occupational training as defined by the ~~Board of Regents~~ administering agency, including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, the state shall award an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted average of amounts paid under this Section for students attending public colleges and universities who are enrolled in the permitted skill or occupational training, as may be applicable.

(ii) For a student who graduates from high school during the 2016-2017 school year and thereafter, who is the recipient of a TOPS-Tech award, and who enrolls in a school that is eligible pursuant to the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph to pursue skill or occupational training in those associate's degree and other shorter-term training education programs that are aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council, the state shall award an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted average of amounts paid under this Section for students attending public colleges and universities who are enrolled in the permitted skill or occupational training, as may be applicable. If the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council determine that such a program is no longer aligned with such priorities, an otherwise eligible student who had previously received an award and enrolled in that program may continue to use the award.

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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)]

HB Draft

2015 Regular Session

**Abstract:** Provides that a student may only use a TOPS-Tech award for degrees and programs aligned with state workforce priorities as determined by the Bd. of Regents and the La. Workforce Investment Council; applicable beginning with students graduating from high school in the 2016-17 school year.

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 academic requirements and other qualifications. Provides for the TOPS-Tech award for students who enroll in certain colleges and universities to pursue skill or occupational training, including vocational or technical education certificates or diploma programs or nonacademic undergraduate degrees.

Proposed law, applicable to students graduating from high school during the 2016-17 school year and thereafter, provides that students may only use a TOPS-Tech award if enrolled in those associate's degree (academic or nonacademic) or shorter-term training and education programs that the Bd. of Regents and the La. Workforce Investment Council determine are aligned with state workforce priorities. However, an otherwise eligible student who had previously received an award and enrolled in such a program may continue to use the award if such board and council determine that the program is no longer aligned with such priorities.

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(2)(intro. para.) and (4)(b))

