
DIGEST

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HB 838 Original

2015 Regular Session

Price

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))