

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 838
2015 Regular Session
Price

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Provides that students may use TOPS-Tech awards only for those degrees and programs that the Bd. of Regents and the La. Workforce Investment Council determine are aligned with state workforce priorities

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Add a requirement that eligible schools and programs report on awards to legislative education committees and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget not later than 60 days before the start of each R.S.
2. Add an emergency effective date to certain provisions of HB 718 this 2015 R.S. (enrolled), which provides relative to student data privacy.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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.

Present law provides for the following relative to TOPS-Tech Award amounts:

- (1) For a recipient who attends an eligible La. public college or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level or higher to pursue permitted skill or occupational training, the award amount equals the actual cost of tuition.
- (2) For a recipient who attends any other eligible postsecondary education institution, the award amount equals the amount determined by the La. Student Financial Assistance Commission to equal the weighted average of amounts paid for students attending public institutions who are enrolled in the permitted skill or occupational training.

Proposed law, relative to awards as provided in (2) above, requires that eligible schools and programs report on awards to the legislative education committees and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget not later than 60 days before the start of each R.S. Proposed law is contingent on veto of HB705 of this 2015 R.S., which recodifies TOPS statutes.

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.

Proposed law provides an emergency effective date for HB 718 of this 2015 R.S. (enrolled), which provides relative to student data privacy; this particular proposed law is effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(2)(intro. para.) and (4)(b); Adds R.S. 17:5002(D))