

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 838 (Substitute for House Bill No. 546 by Representative Price)

BY REPRESENTATIVE PRICE

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(2)(introductory paragraph) and (4)(b) and to enact R.S. 17:5002(D), 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; to provide relative to students; to provide for the effectiveness of certain provisions of law relative to the privacy of student data; 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

\* \* \*

B.

\* \* \*

(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

1 school during the 2000-2001 school year ~~and thereafter~~ through the 2015-2016  
2 school year, the state shall award an amount determined by the administering agency  
3 in accordance with the provisions of Subparagraph (f) of this Paragraph for any  
4 student who enrolls on a full-time basis in an eligible college or university as defined  
5 in Subsection A of this Section to pursue skill or occupational training as defined by  
6 the ~~Board of Regents~~ administering agency, including a vocational or technical  
7 education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree,  
8 and who meets the ~~following~~ qualifications of this Paragraph and all other applicable  
9 qualifications of this Chapter: . For students graduating from high school during the  
10 2016-2017 school year and thereafter, the state shall award an amount determined  
11 by the administering agency in accordance with the provisions of Subparagraph (f)  
12 of this Paragraph for any student who meets the qualifications of this Paragraph and  
13 all other applicable qualifications of this Chapter and who enrolls on a full-time basis  
14 in those associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education programs that  
15 are aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and  
16 the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council of an eligible college or university as  
17 defined in Subsection A of this Section. If the Board of Regents and the Louisiana  
18 Workforce Investment Council determine that a program is no longer aligned with  
19 those priorities, an otherwise eligible student who had previously received an award  
20 and enrolled in that program may continue to use the award.

\* \* \*

(4)

\* \* \*

24 (b)(i) For a student who graduates from high school prior to the 2016-2017  
25 school year, who is the recipient of a TOPS-Tech ~~award~~ Award, and who enrolls in  
26 a school that is eligible pursuant to the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this  
27 Paragraph to pursue skill or occupational training as defined by the ~~Board of Regents~~  
28 administering agency, including a vocational or technical education certificate or  
29 diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, the state shall award an  
30 amount determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted average of

1 amounts paid under this Section for students attending public colleges and  
 2 universities who are enrolled in the permitted skill or occupational training, as may  
 3 be applicable. Eligible schools and programs shall report on awards to the Senate  
 4 Committee on Education, the House Committee on Education, and the Joint  
 5 Legislative Committee on the Budget not later than sixty days before the start of each  
 6 regular session of the legislature.

7 (ii) For a student who graduates from high school during the 2016-2017  
 8 school year and thereafter, who is the recipient of a TOPS-Tech Award, and who  
 9 enrolls in a school that is eligible pursuant to the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of  
 10 this Paragraph to pursue skill or occupational training in those associate's degree and  
 11 other shorter-term training education programs that are aligned to state workforce  
 12 priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce  
 13 Investment Council, the state shall award an amount determined by the administering  
 14 agency to equal the weighted average of amounts paid under this Section for students  
 15 attending public colleges and universities who are enrolled in the permitted skill or  
 16 occupational training, as may be applicable. If the Board of Regents and the  
 17 Louisiana Workforce Investment Council determine that a program is no longer  
 18 aligned with those priorities, an otherwise eligible student who had previously  
 19 received an award and enrolled in that program may continue to use the award.  
 20 Eligible schools and programs shall report on awards to the Senate Committee on  
 21 Education, the House Committee on Education, and the Joint Legislative Committee  
 22 on the Budget not later than sixty days before the start of each regular session of the  
 23 legislature.

\* \* \*

Section 2. R.S. 17:5002(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§5002. Awards and amounts

\* \* \*

28 D.(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection, a student who is  
 29 eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter and who is enrolled:

1           (a) In an eligible public college or university that does not offer an academic  
2           undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level in those associate's degree or other  
3           shorter-term training and education programs that are aligned to state workforce  
4           priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce  
5           Investment Council shall be awarded by the state an amount determined by the  
6           administering agency to equal the tuition charged by the college or university. If the  
7           Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council determine that  
8           a program is no longer aligned with those priorities, an otherwise eligible student  
9           who had previously received an award and enrolled in that program may continue  
10           to use the award.

11           (b) In an eligible college or university other than as provided for in  
12           Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph in those associate's degree or other shorter-term  
13           training education programs that are aligned to state workforce priorities as  
14           determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment  
15           Council shall be awarded by the state an amount determined by the administering  
16           agency to equal the weighted average of amounts paid to students attending an  
17           eligible public college or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate  
18           degree at the baccalaureate level. If the Board of Regents and the Louisiana  
19           Workforce Investment Council determine that a program is no longer aligned with  
20           those priorities, an otherwise eligible student who had previously received an award  
21           and enrolled in that program may continue to use the award.

22           (2) A student who graduated prior to the 2016-2017 school year, who is  
23           eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter, and who is enrolled:

24           (a) In an eligible college or university that does not offer an academic  
25           undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level shall be awarded by the state an  
26           amount determined by the administering agency to equal the tuition charged by the  
27           college or university.

28           (b) In an eligible college or university other than as provided for in  
29           Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph shall be awarded by the state an amount  
30           determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted average of amounts



1 Constitution of Louisiana. If this Act is vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved  
2 by the legislature, this Section shall become effective on the day following such approval.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_