

**RÉSUMÉ DIGEST****ACT 230 (HB 838)****2015 Regular Session****Price**

Existing 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 certain skill or occupational training, including vocational or technical education certificates or diploma programs or nonacademic undergraduate degrees.

New 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. Provides, however, that an otherwise eligible student who has previously received an award and enrolled in such a program may continue to use it if the board and council determine the program is no longer aligned with those priorities.

Effective August 1, 2015.

(Adds R.S. 17:5002(D)) (See §§3-5 relative to codification of new law.)