

1 ~~(2)~~(b) At any regionally accredited independent college or university in the
 2 state which is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and
 3 Universities to pursue an academic undergraduate degree, shall be awarded by the
 4 state an amount to be determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted
 5 average of amounts paid under this Section for students attending public colleges and
 6 universities that offer academic undergraduate degrees at the baccalaureate level.

7 ~~(3)~~(c) In a school that has a valid and current certificate of registration issued
 8 by the Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology in accordance with law and that is
 9 accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States
 10 Department of Education or in any proprietary school that has a valid and current
 11 license issued by the Board of Regents in accordance with law and that is accredited
 12 by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of
 13 Education, shall be awarded by the state 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.

17 ~~(4)~~(d) In an out-of-state college or university that is specifically designed to
 18 accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing students under R.S. 17:5027(C), shall be
 19 awarded an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted
 20 average of amounts paid under this Section for students attending Louisiana public
 21 colleges and universities that offer academic undergraduate degrees.

22 (2)(a) The award amount for a student classified as a freshman shall be
 23 eighty percent of the amount otherwise provided by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection,
 24 and the award amount for a student classified as a sophomore shall be ninety percent
 25 of the amount otherwise provided by Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

26 (b) Notwithstanding Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, if a freshman or
 27 sophomore defers receipt of the award until the end of the award year, and, at the end
 28 of the award year, he has a grade point average of not less than 3.00 calculated on
 29 a 4.00 scale for the award year, the award amount shall be as provided in Paragraph

1 (b) Notwithstanding Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, if a student who has
2 completed fewer than twenty-four hours of credit defers receipt of the award until
3 the end of the award year and, at the end of the award year, he has a grade point
4 average of not less than 3.00 calculated on a 4.00 scale for the award year, the award
5 amount shall be as otherwise provided in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection; however,
6 if he does not meet this grade point average requirement but otherwise maintains
7 award eligibility, his award amount shall be as provided in Subparagraph (a) of this
8 Paragraph. No award shall be paid to or for a student who defers receipt of the
9 award but fails to maintain award eligibility. Notwithstanding the provisions of this
10 Chapter regarding payment of awards, an award for a student who defers receipt of
11 an award until the end of the award year and who, at the end of the award year, has
12 maintained eligibility for future awards shall be paid to the student.

* * *

14 §5002.1. Awards and amounts; exceptions

15 A. The following provisions shall not be applicable to students who graduate
16 from high school prior to the 2019-2020 school year:

17 (1) R.S. 17:5002(B)(2).

18 (2) R.S. 17:5002(D)(2).

19 B. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 17:5002(D), a student who
20 graduates from high school prior to the 2016-2017 school year, who is eligible for
21 a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter, and who is enrolled:

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

26 (2) In an eligible college or university other than as provided for in
27 Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall be awarded by the state an amount determined
28 by the administering agency to equal the weighted average of amounts aid to

Proposed law retains present law for students graduating from high school prior to the 2019-2020 school year, but, applicable to students graduating during or after that school year, provides differential award amounts for freshmen and sophomores, as follows:

- (1) For freshmen, 80% of present law award amount.
- (2) For sophomores, 90% of present law award amount.

Present law provides, relative to TOPS-Tech Award amounts, that at a public institution that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level, the amount is equal to the tuition charged by the institution. For other eligible institutions, the amount is equal to the weighted average of amounts paid to students attending an eligible public institution that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level.

Proposed law retains present law for students graduating from high school prior to the 2019-2020 school year, but, applicable to students graduating during or after that school year, provides differential award amounts for students who have completed fewer than 24 credit hours, as follows:

- (1) For students who have completed fewer than 12 credit hours, 80% of present law award amount.
- (2) For students who have completed at least 12 but fewer than 24 credit hours, 90% of present law award amount.

Proposed law, notwithstanding the differential award amounts provided in proposed law, grants freshman and sophomore recipients of Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Awards and TOPS-Tech recipients who have completed fewer than 24 hours the option of deferring receipt of their awards. If such a student maintains TOPS eligibility, the award amount shall be paid to him at the end of the award year, and the award amount shall be as follows:

- (1) If he maintains a 3.00 GPA, the amount shall be as otherwise provided in present law.
- (2) If he fails to maintain a 3.00 GPA, the amount shall be the percentage based on his classification as provided in proposed law.

Proposed law further requires, beginning with the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the legislature to appropriate 25% of any savings attributable to proposed law implementation for the purpose of increasing funding for the La. GO Grant program. Requires, beginning in 2019, the Legislative Fiscal Office annually to issue a fiscal and economic impact statement on Dec. 1st documenting the projected savings for the ensuing fiscal year. Requires the Legislative Fiscal Officer to forward this annual statement to the commissioner of administration for use in developing the budgets for TOPS and the La. GO Grant program. Provides that the monies appropriated for the La. GO Grant program pursuant to proposed law shall not displace, replace, or supplant the average amount of the monies appropriated for the program for the three most recent fiscal years.

(Amends R.S. 17:5002(B) and (D)(1)(intro. para.) and (2); Adds R.S. 17:5002.1)