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DIGEST

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HB 367 Original

2016 Regular Session

Amedee

**Abstract:** Provides for a reduction in Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award amounts according to the amount of a student's need-based financial aid, if any, that can be applied to tuition; applicable to students graduating from high school during or after the 2019-20 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 initial eligibility requirements, including academic requirements pertaining to grade point average (GPA), ACT score, and core curricula. TOPS award amounts vary depending on the type of award and the type of college or university, as follows:

<b>TOPS-Tech Award</b>	
<b>Institution Type</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
Public college or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level	Tuition charged by the institution
Other eligible college or university	Equal to the weighted average of amounts paid to students attending an eligible public college or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level

<b>Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award</b>	
<b>Institution Type</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
La. public college or university	Tuition charged by the institution
La. nonpublic college or university	Weighted average of amounts paid for students attending La. public colleges and universities that offer academic undergraduate degrees at the baccalaureate level

Out-of-state college or university designed to accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing students	Weighted average of amounts paid for students attending La. public colleges and universities that offer academic undergraduate degrees
Certain cosmetology and proprietary schools	Weighted average of amounts for students attending public colleges and universities who are enrolled in skill or occupational training

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 that if a student has been awarded need-based financial aid that can be applied to tuition, his TOPS award amount shall be the otherwise applicable award amount less the amount of the need-based financial aid.

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