
DIGEST

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HB 390 Original

2016 Regular Session

Nancy Landry

Abstract: Fixes Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award amounts at the 2016-17 academic year level.

Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), Generally

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 grade point average, ACT score, and core curriculum requirements and certain other qualifications. Provides for Opportunity, Performance and Honors Awards (eight semesters) and TOPS-Tech Awards (two years).

Establishment of Baseline Award Amounts

Present law provides as follows relative to the amount awarded for recipients of a TOPS-Tech Award, which is only awarded if a student is enrolled in programs aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Bd. of Regents and La. Workforce Investment Council:

TOPS-Tech Award	
Institution Type	Award Amount
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

Present law provides as follows relative to the amount awarded to recipients of Opportunity, Performance, or Honors awards:

Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award	
Institution Type	Award Amount
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 provides that amounts for all TOPS awards shall not increase beyond the amount awarded in the 2016-17 academic year.

ACT Score

Present law provides that to qualify for an Opportunity Award, a student must have a composite ACT score equal to or higher than the state average composite score, rounded to the nearest whole number, reported for the previous year, but never less than 20.

Proposed law retains the requirement that a student have a minimum ACT score equal to or greater than the state average, but never less than 20, but specifies that the state average be truncated to a whole number instead of being rounded to the nearest whole number.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:5002(A), (B), and (D) and 5024(B)(1)(a))