
DIGEST

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HB 914 Original

2016 Regular Session

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Abstract: Provides that a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award may no longer be used at cosmetology and proprietary schools and that a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award may no longer be used to fund courses offered by training providers.

Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, generally

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as a program of merit scholarships for students attending "eligible colleges and universities" 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), as well as TOPS-Tech Early Start Awards for certain high school students.

Present law defines an "eligible college or university" generally as a La. college or university that is either (1) public or (2) a member of the La. Assoc. of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU). Present law, for students pursuing skill or occupational training, broadens the definition of "eligible college or university" to include certain cosmetology and proprietary schools.

Proposed law, applicable to students graduating from high school during or after the 2016-2017 school year, eliminates the option of using a TOPS award at a cosmetology or proprietary school.

Present law also allows a student to use an award at an out-of-state institution that serves primarily deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Proposed law retains present law.

TOPS-Tech Early Start Award

Present law establishes the TOPS-Tech Early Start Award for eligible 11th and 12th grade public school students and authorizes its use to fund, subject to the appropriation of funds for this purpose, any technical or applied course leading to specified certificates offered by the following La. entities:

- (1) Public postsecondary education institutions.
- (2) Nonpublic postsecondary education institutions.
- (3) Training providers.

Proposed law, applicable to students graduating from high school during or after the 2017-2018

school year, limits the nonpublic institutions at which this award may be used to fund such courses to LAICU member institutions and eliminates the authority to use this award to fund courses offered by training providers.

(Amends R.S. 17:5081(B)(1)(intro. para.) and (3) and (E)(3); Adds R.S. 17:5002.1, 5027.1, and 5081.1; Repeals R.S. 17:5002(B)(3) and (D)(1)(b) and (2), 5027(C) and (D), and 5081(B)(4))