

---

## DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

---

HB 1050 Original

2016 Regular Session

Nancy Landry

**Abstract:** Grants the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) administering agency and public postsecondary education institutions certain authorities in the event that the legislature appropriates insufficient money to fund all program awards.

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 requirements, including academic requirements, relative to initial eligibility and continuing eligibility. Requires the legislature annually to appropriate funds sufficient to cover the costs of TOPS awards.

Present law provides, in the event the legislature appropriates insufficient money to fund all awards, that the number of students to whom awards shall be made shall be reduced pursuant to a procedure adopted by the administering agency (the La. Student Financial Assistance Commission). Requires this procedure to provide:

- (1) That such reduction be based on ACT scores and then on the ability of each student's family to pay the student's tuition.
- (2) That reductions of awards made necessary by insufficient appropriations shall first eliminate the cohort of students scoring lowest on the ACT and that within that cohort of students, those whose families are most able to pay the student's tuition shall be eliminated first; provides, after insufficient appropriations require the elimination of all students in such cohort, that procedures require repeating the process with those students in the next highest score cohort.
- (3) That among students denied their awards, those students whose families have the least capacity to pay shall be the first to receive their awards if monies become available.
- (4) That any student for whom the expected family contribution cannot be determined shall be denied his award until the legislature appropriates sufficient monies to fund all awards.

Proposed law authorizes the following in the event of insufficient appropriations:

- (1) Notwithstanding present law procedures, the administering agency may implement a pro rata cut to all awards, not to exceed 5% of the award amount, subject to approval by the Joint Legislative Committee on Budget and the House and Senate education committees, meeting

jointly.

- (2) Public postsecondary education institutions may charge a student the difference between a reduced award amount and the amount of tuition at the institution.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:5065(D))