
DIGEST

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HB 181 Original

2015 Regular Session

Brown

Abstract: Restricts awards under the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) to U.S. citizens and children of non-U.S. citizens who either are serving in or were honorably discharged from any branch of the U.S. armed forces.

Present law (R.S. 17:3048.1) establishes TOPS and sets for various criteria for qualifying for an award under such program. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law generally requires a student receiving TOPS to be a U.S. citizen.

Present law provides exceptions for non-U.S. citizens to be eligible for an award if they meet either of the following:

- (1) If the student is eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship and within 60 days of attaining majority such student applies for U.S. citizenship and obtains such citizenship within one year after the date of application.
- (2) A student graduating during the 2002-2003 school year or after who is a permanent resident and is eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship.

Proposed law prohibits students graduating during the 2018-2019 school year and thereafter from qualifying for present law exceptions to the citizenship requirement. Further provides a new exception to the present law citizenship requirement for such students: a non-U.S. citizen may qualify for a TOPS award if the student's parent is either serving in or has been honorably discharged from any branch of the U.S. armed forces.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(a)(iii)(aa) and (ee)(II); Adds R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(a)(iii) (gg))