

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 705

BY REPRESENTATIVE BROADWATER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Provides for technical corrections to TOPS

1 AN ACT

2 To enact Chapter 50 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised
3 of R.S. 17:5001 through 5122; all relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for
4 Students (TOPS); to provide for a technical recodification of TOPS provisions
5 contained in statutory law; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. Chapter 50 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
8 comprised of R.S. 17:5001 through 5122, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 CHAPTER 50. TAYLOR OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

10 PART I. GENERAL

11 SUBPART A. AWARDS

12 §5001. Taylor Opportunity Program for Students

13 As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, the state
14 shall provide financial assistance to any eligible student who enrolls on a full-time
15 basis in an eligible college or university to pursue an academic undergraduate degree
16 or skill or occupational training as defined by the administering agency including a
17 vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic
18 undergraduate degree.

19 §5002. Awards and amounts

1 A. A student shall be eligible for an Honors, Performance, Opportunity, or
2 Tech award based on his academic achievement.

3 B. Any student who is eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, Honors
4 Award pursuant to this Chapter and who has enrolled:

5 (1) In any public college or university a public college or university in this
6 state, shall be awarded by the state an amount determined by the administering
7 agency to equal the tuition charged by the public college or university.

8 (2) At any regionally accredited independent college or university in the state
9 which is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and
10 Universities to pursue an academic undergraduate degree, shall be awarded by the
11 state an amount to be determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted
12 average of amounts paid under this Section for students attending public colleges and
13 universities that offer academic undergraduate degrees at the baccalaureate level.

14 (3) In a school that has a valid and current certificate of registration issued
15 by the State Board of Cosmetology in accordance with law and that is accredited by
16 an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of Education
17 or in any proprietary school that has a valid and current license issued by the Board
18 of Regents in accordance with law and that is accredited by an accrediting
19 organization recognized by the United States Department of Education, shall be
20 awarded by the state an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the
21 weighted average of amounts paid under this Section for students attending public
22 colleges and universities who are enrolled in the permitted skill or occupational
23 training, as may be applicable.

24 (4) In an out-of-state college or university that is specifically designed to
25 accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing students under R.S. 17:5027(C), shall be
26 awarded an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted
27 average of amounts paid under this Section for students attending Louisiana public
28 colleges and universities that offer academic undergraduate degrees.

1 C.(1) A student who is eligible for the Performance Award shall receive the
2 sum of two hundred dollars per semester or four hundred dollars per academic year
3 in addition to the amount provided for in Subsection B of this Section.

4 (2) A student who is eligible for the Honors Award shall receive the sum of
5 four hundred dollars per semester or eight hundred dollars per academic year in
6 addition to the amount provided for in Subsection B of this Section.

7 D.(1) For any student who is eligible for a TOPS Tech Award pursuant to
8 this Chapter attending an eligible public college or university that does not offer an
9 academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level or higher, the amount shall
10 equal the actual cost of tuition as determined by the administering agency.

11 (2) For any student who is eligible for a TOPS Tech Award pursuant to this
12 Chapter attending an eligible college or university other than as provided for in
13 Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the amount shall equal the weighted average of
14 amounts paid to students attending an eligible public college or university that does
15 not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level or higher.

16 E.(1) No student shall be eligible for tuition payment pursuant to this Section
17 for the Opportunity Award, the Performance Award, or the Honors Award for more
18 than eight semesters or an equivalent number of units in an eligible institution which
19 operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters, unless an extension is
20 granted by the administering agency in accordance with its rules.

21 (2) No student shall be eligible for tuition payment pursuant to this Section
22 for the TOPS-Tech Award for more than two years unless an extension is granted by
23 the administering agency in accordance with its rules.

24 (3)(a) Any student receiving an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors award
25 who successfully completes an academic undergraduate degree in less than the eight
26 semesters or its equivalent of award benefits provided by this Subsection shall be
27 eligible to continue to receive all applicable award benefits, in accordance with the
28 limitations as specified in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, for any remaining
29 semester or semesters or the equivalent thereof of eligibility not used to obtain the

1 undergraduate degree provided such student pursues a postgraduate academic degree
2 at an eligible institution and the student continues to meet all academic and other
3 requirements provided by this Section and by rule of the administering agency for
4 continued receipt of the award as an undergraduate except as such requirements,
5 including requirements provided by this Section for undergraduate students, may be
6 modified by the administering agency as necessary to apply such requirements to
7 postgraduate study.

8 (b) In developing rules to implement this Paragraph, the administering
9 agency shall establish reasonable time lines and deadlines for receipt of any
10 information required to implement this Paragraph both for current and subsequent
11 students receiving Opportunity, Performance, or Honors awards and for any student
12 previously receiving such an award who successfully completed an academic
13 undergraduate degree in less than eight semesters. Such rules shall also provide for
14 appropriate notice to all such students of the time lines, deadlines, and rules
15 governing implementation of this Paragraph.

16 (c) The amount of the award benefits relative to tuition as provided for in
17 Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph shall not exceed the amounts determined by the
18 administering agency to equal the tuition charged for the postgraduate study or for
19 undergraduate full-time enrollment charged by the highest cost public college
20 university in the state, whichever amount is less.

21 F. In lieu of the payment of tuition as provided in this Section, any student
22 participating in the program provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the
23 Louisiana National Guard shall receive the tuition exemption as provided therein.
24 However, in addition to any other payments provided for by this Section:

25 (1) For any student who is participating in the tuition exemption program
26 provided by R.S. 29:36.1 and who also meets the qualifications provided in this
27 Section for receipt of an Opportunity Award or a TOPS-Tech Award, the state shall
28 pay on behalf of such student a sum of three hundred dollars per semester or six

1 hundred dollars per academic year to be applied toward the cost of books and other
2 instructional materials.

3 (2) For any student who is participating in the tuition exemption program
4 provided by R.S. 29:36.1 and who also meets the qualifications provided in this
5 Section for receipt of a Performance Award, the state shall pay on behalf of the
6 student a sum of three hundred dollars per semester or six hundred dollars per
7 academic year to be applied toward the cost of books and other instructional
8 materials plus the sum of four hundred dollars per semester or eight hundred dollars
9 per academic year for other educational expenses as defined by the Louisiana
10 Student Financial Assistance Commission.

11 (3) For any student who is participating in the tuition exemption program
12 provided by R.S. 29:36.1 and who also meets the qualifications provided in this
13 Section for receipt of an Honors Award, the state shall pay on behalf of the student
14 a sum of three hundred dollars per semester or six hundred dollars per academic year
15 to be applied toward the cost of books and other instructional materials plus the sum
16 of eight hundred dollars per semester or one thousand six hundred dollars per
17 academic year for other educational expenses as defined by the Louisiana Student
18 Financial Assistance Commission.

19 §5003. Eligibility

20 To be eligible for an award, a student shall meet all applicable initial
21 eligibility requirements.

22 SUBPART B. INITIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

23 §5021. Louisiana High School Graduation

24 A.(1) Except as otherwise provided by Subsection B of this Section, to be
25 eligible for an award pursuant to this Chapter, a student shall be certified as provided
26 in this Chapter to have graduated from a public high school or a nonpublic high
27 school which has been approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
28 Education.

1 (2)(a) For a student graduating from a Louisiana nonpublic high school to
2 be eligible for an award under this Chapter, beginning with applicants who graduate
3 from a nonpublic high school during the 1999-2000 school year, the nonpublic high
4 school from which the student graduates shall be approved by the State Board of
5 Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to R.S. 17:11 and, in addition, shall
6 meet the standards required by the board for the students in such school to be eligible
7 to receive from the state the benefit of appropriations for such items as
8 transportation, textbooks, and administrative cost reimbursement.

9 (b) Notwithstanding the requirements of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph,
10 those nonpublic high schools that, not later than May 15, 2000, were approved by the
11 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education pursuant to R.S. 17:11 and
12 applied for and had their application forwarded by the state Department of Education
13 seeking the approval necessary for the students in such school to be eligible to
14 receive from the state the benefits of appropriations for such items as transportation,
15 textbooks, and administrative cost reimbursement shall have until the 2003-2004
16 school year to meet the latter requirement in order for the graduates from such high
17 school to be eligible for an award under this Chapter.

18 B. Students funded through the Louisiana minimum foundation program and
19 who are attending any high school in an adjoining state pursuant to an agreement in
20 effect as of June 4, 1994, between the parish school system and the local governing
21 authority of the school in the adjoining state, shall be considered as having graduated
22 from a state-approved nonpublic high school.

23 §5022. Citizenship requirements

24 A. Except as otherwise provided by this Section, to be eligible for an award
25 pursuant to this Chapter, a student shall be a citizen of the United States.

26 B.(1) A student who is not a citizen of the United States but who is eligible
27 to apply for such citizenship shall be deemed to satisfy the citizenship requirement
28 of this Section if within sixty days after the date the student attains the age of

1 majority, the student applies to become a citizen of the United States and obtains
2 such citizenship within one year after the date of application.

3 (2) A student who graduates from high school during the 2002-2003 school
4 year or thereafter, who is not a citizen of the United States but who is a permanent
5 resident as defined by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, and
6 who is eligible to apply for United States citizenship shall be deemed to satisfy the
7 citizenship requirement of this Section.

8 (3) An award under this Chapter shall be reinstated for any student who was
9 determined eligible prior to the 2002-2003 school year, and such award was
10 subsequently canceled due solely to that student's failure to become a United States
11 citizen within one year after the date of the application, provided the student is a
12 permanent resident, as defined by the United States Immigration and Naturalization
13 Service, and is eligible to apply for United States citizenship or is now a United
14 States citizen.

15 C. This Section is not applicable to a student who graduated from high
16 school prior to the 1999-2000 school year.

17 §5023. Residency requirements

18 A. Except as provided by Subsection D of this Section, to be eligible for an
19 award pursuant to this Chapter, an independent student, as defined by the
20 administering agency, shall be a resident of Louisiana.

21 B. Except as provided by Subsection D of this Section, to be eligible for an
22 award pursuant to this Chapter, a dependent student, as defined by the administering
23 agency, shall meet one of the following requirements:

24 (1) He has a parent or court-ordered custodian who is a resident of Louisiana
25 during the twenty-four months preceding the date of the student's graduation from
26 high school.

27 (2) He is the dependent child of a resident of Louisiana on active duty with
28 the United States armed forces who is stationed outside Louisiana but who claims

1 Louisiana as his official state of legal residence and who has filed a Louisiana state
2 income tax return for the most recent two years.

3 (3) Any independent or dependent student who is a resident of this state and
4 who graduates from a public or approved nonpublic high school in this state in the
5 2002-2003 school year or thereafter shall meet the requirements of this Section if he
6 actually resides or lives in this state for the period of his last two full years of high
7 school culminating in graduation as certified by the high school.

8 (4) He is the dependent child of a nonresident of Louisiana on active duty
9 with the United States armed forces who is stationed in Louisiana under permanent
10 change of station orders and who not later than one hundred eighty days after
11 reporting to such station changes his military personnel records to establish
12 Louisiana as his official state of legal residence and complies with Louisiana income
13 tax laws and regulations for the time period while stationed in Louisiana.

14 C. Residency shall be demonstrated by proof of the following as required by
15 the administering agency or by other proof required by the administering agency by
16 rule:

17 (1) If registered to vote, is registered in Louisiana.

18 (2) If licensed to drive a motor vehicle, is in possession of a Louisiana
19 driver's license.

20 (3) If owning a motor vehicle located within Louisiana, is in possession of
21 Louisiana registration for that vehicle.

22 (4) If earning an income, has filed a Louisiana state income tax return and
23 has complied with state income tax laws and regulations.

24 D.(1) Any student who is the dependent child of a member of the United
25 States Armed Forces who is not a resident of this state, is living in this state under
26 permanent change of station orders but does not claim Louisiana as his state of legal
27 residence, who graduates from a public or approved nonpublic high school in this
28 state in the 2000-2001 academic school year or thereafter shall meet the
29 requirements of this Section if he actually lives in this state for the period of his last

1 two full years of high school culminating in graduation as certified by the high
2 school.

3 (2)(a) Any displaced student as defined by R.S. 17:3048.7(A)(2) who
4 graduates from an out-of-state school during the 2006-2007 school year and is
5 awarded a Louisiana Distance Diploma issued by the Department of Education shall
6 meet the requirements of this Section if he actually resided in Louisiana during his
7 entire tenth grade year of high school and was enrolled for such time in an eligible
8 Louisiana high school or, for dependent students, if the displaced student has a
9 parent or court-ordered custodian who actually resided in a parish listed in R.S.
10 17:3048.7(A)(2)(a) for at least the twelve months prior to August 26, 2005, or in a
11 parish listed in R.S. 17:3048.7(A)(2)(b) for at least the twelve months prior to
12 September 20, 2005.

13 (b) A displaced student who meets the residency requirement of this
14 Paragraph shall not be required to have for the respective awards a higher minimum
15 composite score on the ACT or on the SAT than required for a student who graduates
16 from an eligible Louisiana high school provided such student has, for Opportunity
17 awards, a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses on the high
18 school transcript of at least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale or, for Performance and
19 Honors awards, a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses on the
20 high school transcript of at least 3.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale.

21 (3)(a) Any dependent student graduating from an out-of-state high school
22 during the 2006-2007 school year whose parent or court-ordered custodian was a
23 member of the United States armed forces who, in the year 2006, moved from
24 Louisiana under a permanent change of station orders and retired from the armed
25 forces, and changed his military personnel records to reflect a change of his state of
26 legal residence from Louisiana to another state, shall meet the requirements of this
27 Section, provided that such parent or court-ordered custodian changes his military
28 personnel records from the other state to reestablish Louisiana as his state of legal

1 residence no later than July 1, 2007, and has filed a Louisiana state income tax return
2 for the two years preceding the date of the dependent's graduation from high school.

3 (b) Any dependent student who meets the requirements of this Paragraph
4 shall qualify for an award under this Chapter if the student has a composite score on
5 the 1990 version of the ACT which is at least two points higher than that required by
6 this Section for a student graduating from a Louisiana public high school or
7 nonpublic high school which has been approved by the State Board of Elementary
8 and Secondary Education or an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or
9 revised version of such test or on the SAT.

10 (4) To be eligible for an award pursuant to this Chapter, a student who
11 graduates from high school during the 1996-1997 or the 1997-1998 school year,
12 actually enrolled in an eligible institution and received an award letter notifying him
13 that he was an eligible recipient of a TOPS award beginning in the fall of 1998, and
14 has actually resided in Louisiana during the twenty-four months preceding college
15 or university enrollment.

16 (5) To be eligible for an award pursuant to this Chapter, a student who
17 graduated from high school during the 1998-1999 school year shall have actually
18 resided in Louisiana during the twenty-four months preceding college or university
19 enrollment.

20 §5024. Academic Requirements

21 A.(1) Except as otherwise provided by this Subsection, students shall meet
22 the following minimum grade point average requirements, calculated on a 4.00 scale
23 using only the grades obtained by the student in completing the core curriculum
24 requirements established by this Chapter, for the respective awards:

25 (a) For an opportunity award, a minimum cumulative grade point average
26 of 2.50.

27 (b) For a performance award, a minimum cumulative grade point average of
28 3.00.

29 (c) For an honors award, a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00.

1 (d) For a TOPS-Tech award, a minimum cumulative grade point average of
2 2.50.

3 (2)(a) For a student who graduated prior to the 2002-2003 school year the
4 minimum cumulative grade point average shall be calculated by using the grades
5 obtained by the student in completing all classes taken.

6 (b) For a student who graduated prior to the 2007-2008 school year, the
7 minimum cumulative high school grade point average necessary for such students
8 to be eligible for an initial Performance Award or Honors Award shall be 3.50 on a
9 4.00 scale.

10 (3)(a) The calculation of the minimum cumulative grade point average
11 specified in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection shall utilize a five-point scale for grades
12 earned in certain Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses,
13 gifted and talented courses, honors courses, articulated courses for college credit, and
14 dual enrollment courses as approved by the Board of Regents and the State Board of
15 Elementary and Secondary Education, which may result in a student earning a
16 cumulative grade point average that exceeds 4.00. For such courses, five quality
17 points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "A", four quality points shall be assigned
18 to a letter grade of "B", three quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "C",
19 two quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "D", and zero quality points
20 shall be assigned to a letter grade of "F".

21 (b) The provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph do not apply to
22 students who graduated prior to the 2017-2018 school year.

23 B.(1) Except as otherwise provided by this Subsection, a student shall earn
24 the following minimum test scores for the respective awards:

25 (a) For an opportunity award, a composite score on the 1990 version of the
26 ACT which is at least equal to or higher than the state's average composite score,
27 rounded to the nearest whole number, reported for the prior year but never less than
28 twenty or an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such
29 test or on the SAT.

1 (b) For a performance award, a composite score on the 1990 version of the
2 ACT of twenty-three or higher or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced
3 or revised version of such test or on the SAT.

4 (c) For an honors award, a score of twenty-seven or higher on the 1990
5 version of the ACT or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised
6 version of such test or on the SAT.

7 (d) For a TOPS-Tech award, a composite score on the specified ACT of
8 seventeen or higher or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised
9 version of such test or on the SAT. The student may, as an alternative requirement,
10 have attained a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system.

11 (2)(a) For a student who graduated prior to the 2010-2011 school year, the
12 ACT WorkKeys system is not an alternative assessment for establishing eligibility
13 for a TOPS-Tech Award.

14 (b) For a student who graduated prior to the 2000-2001 school year, the
15 minimum ACT score for a TOPS-Tech Award is nineteen.

16 C. A student who graduated after the 2002-2003 school year but prior to the
17 2006-2007 school year is eligible to receive a Performance Award pursuant to this
18 Chapter if he meets the other requirements of this Chapter and each of the following
19 conditions is met:

20 (1) The student has a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT of
21 twenty-four or higher or an equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised
22 version of such test or on the SAT.

23 (2) The student achieved a minimum cumulative high school grade point
24 average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale when calculated in accordance with applicable rules
25 adopted by the administering agency and such calculation is based on ten or more of
26 the grades being grades for completion of honors curriculum courses, gifted
27 curriculum courses, or advanced placement courses, or any combination of such
28 courses, and the high school awards grades for such courses on a 4.0 scale or higher.

1 §5025. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance,
2 Honors Awards

3 To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors award pursuant
4 to this Chapter, a student who graduates during or after the 2017-2018 school year
5 shall have successfully completed a core curriculum which consists of nineteen units
6 of high school course work as follows:

7 (1) English - Four Units

8 (a) English I.

9 (b) English II.

10 (c) One unit chosen from the following: English III, AP English Language
11 Arts and Composition, or English III IB (Language A or Literature and
12 Performance).

13 (d) One unit chosen from the following: English IV, AP English Literature
14 and Composition, or English IV IB (Language A or Literature and Performance).

15 (2) Mathematics - Four Units

16 (a) Algebra I (one unit), Geometry (one unit), and Algebra II (one unit).
17 Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, and Integrated Mathematics III
18 may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II sequence.

19 (b) One unit chosen from the following: Algebra III; Advanced Math
20 Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math
21 Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math
22 Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP
23 Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL.

24 (3) Science - Four Units

25 (a) Biology I.

26 (b) Chemistry I.

27 (c) Two units chosen from the following: Earth Science; Environmental
28 Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined);
29 Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science or IB

1 Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C:
2 Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, or IB Physics II; AP Physics
3 I and AP Physics II; Biology II, AP Biology, or IB Biology II.

4 (4) Social Studies - Four Units

5 (a) One unit chosen from the following: U.S. History, AP US History, or IB
6 US History.

7 (b) One unit chosen from the following: Civics, Government, AP US
8 Government and Politics: Comparative, AP US Government and Politics: United
9 States.

10 (c) Two units chosen from the following: Western Civilization, European
11 History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB
12 Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of
13 Religion; IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics.

14 (d) One unit of Civics may be substituted to satisfy the combined subject
15 matter requirements enumerated in Subparagraphs (a) and (b) of this Paragraph.

16 (e) Two units chosen from the following: Western Civilization, European
17 History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB
18 Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of
19 Religion; IB Economics.

20 (5) Foreign Language - two units in the same language, which may include
21 the following: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture,
22 AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese
23 Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, French IV IB,
24 French V IB, Spanish IV IB, and Spanish V IB.

25 (6) Art - one unit chosen from the following: Performance course in Music,
26 Dance, or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art I, II, III, and
27 IV; Talented Music I, II, III, and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; Speech
28 III and Speech IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design;
29 AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory; Film Study

1 I IB; Film Study II IB; Music I IB; Music II IB; Art Design III IB; Art Design IV IB;
2 Theatre I IB; or Drafting.

3 (7) For the purposes of this Section, any core curriculum course that is taken
4 by a student who has been identified as gifted pursuant to State Board of Elementary
5 and Secondary Education policy and that is taken in fulfillment of the student's
6 Individualized Education Plan shall be considered a gifted course and shall fulfill the
7 core curriculum requirement in its given subject area.

8 §5025.1. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance,
9 Honors; students graduating prior to 2007-2008 school year

10 To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant
11 to this Chapter, a student who graduated from high school prior to the 2007-2008
12 school year shall have successfully completed a core curriculum which consists of
13 sixteen and one-half units of high school course work as follows:

14 (1) English I, II, III, and IV (four units).

15 (2) Algebra I (one unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (two units) and
16 Algebra II (one unit).

17 (3) Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, or comparable Advanced
18 Mathematics (one unit; however, Trigonometry is not an option for meeting this
19 requirement for students graduating after the 2004-2005 school year).

20 (4) Biology (one unit).

21 (5) Chemistry (one unit).

22 (6) Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II,
23 Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, Physics for Technology, or Agriscience I and II
24 (both for one unit)(one unit).

25 (7) American History (one unit).

26 (8) World History, Western Civilization, or World Geography (one unit).

27 (9) Civics and Free Enterprise (one unit combined) or Civics (one unit,
28 nonpublic).

29 (10) Fine Arts Survey (one unit).

1 (11) Foreign Language (two units in a single language; however, one unit for
2 students graduating from high school during the 1996-1997 or 1997-1998 school
3 year).

4 (12) Computer Science, Computer Literacy, or Business Computer
5 Applications (one-half unit; or substitute at least one-half unit of an elective course
6 related to computers that is approved by the State Board of Elementary and
7 Secondary Education; or substitute at least one-half unit as an elective from among
8 the other subjects listed in this core curriculum).

9 §5025.2 High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance,
10 Honors; students graduating 2007-2008 through 2012-2013

11 To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant
12 to this Chapter, a student who graduated from high school during or after the 2007-
13 2008 school year but not later than the 2012-2013 school year shall have successfully
14 completed a core curriculum which consists of seventeen and one-half units of high
15 school course work as follows:

16 (1) English I, II, III, and IV (four units).

17 (2) Algebra I (one unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (two units) and
18 Algebra II (one unit).

19 (3) Geometry, Calculus, or comparable Advanced Mathematics (one unit).

20 (4) Biology (one unit).

21 (5) Chemistry (one unit).

22 (6) Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II,
23 Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, Physics for Technology, or Agriscience I and II
24 (both for one unit)(one unit).

25 (7) American History (one unit).

26 (8) World History, Western Civilization, or World Geography (one unit).

27 (9) Civics and Free Enterprise (one unit combined) or Civics (one unit,
28 nonpublic).

1 (10) Fine Arts Survey (one unit; or substitute two units of performance
2 courses in music, dance, or theater; or substitute two units of visual art courses; or
3 substitute two units of studio art courses; or substitute one unit as an elective from
4 among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum).

5 (11) Foreign Language (two units in a single language; however students
6 graduating from high school during the 1996-1997 school year or the 1997-1998
7 school year are required to have only one unit).

8 (12) Computer Science, Computer Literacy, or Business Computer
9 Applications (one-half unit; or substitute at least one-half unit of an elective course
10 related to computers that is approved by the State Board of Elementary and
11 Secondary Education; or substitute at least one-half unit as an elective from among
12 the other subjects listed in this core curriculum).

13 (13) At least one unit as an elective from among the following math subjects:
14 Geometry, Calculus, or approved advanced math substitute, or the following science
15 subjects: Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics or Physics II.

16 §5025.3. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance,
17 Honors; students graduating 2013-2014 through 2016-2017 school years

18 To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors; Award, a student
19 who graduated from high school during or after the 2013-2014 school year but not
20 later than the 2016-2017 school year shall have successfully completed a core
21 curriculum which consists of nineteen units of high school course work as follows:

22 (1) English I, II, III, and IV (four units).

23 (2) Algebra I (one unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (two units) and
24 Algebra II (one unit).

25 (3) Geometry, Calculus, or comparable Advanced Mathematics (two units).

26 (4) Biology (one unit).

27 (5) Chemistry (one unit).

1 (6) Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physical Science, Biology II,
2 Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, Physics for Technology, or Agriscience I and II
3 (both for one unit) (two units).

4 (7) American History (one unit).

5 (8) World History, Western Civilization, World Geography, or History of
6 Religion (two units).

7 (9) Civics and Free Enterprise (one unit combined) or Civics (one unit,
8 nonpublic).

9 (10) Fine Arts Survey (one unit or substitute one unit of a performance
10 course in music, dance, or theater; or substitute one unit of a visual art course; or
11 substitute one unit of a studio art course; or substitute one unit of drafting).

12 (11) Foreign Language (two units in a single language).

13 §5026. High school core curriculum requirements; TOPS-Tech

14 A. Except as otherwise provided by this Section, to be eligible for a TOPS-
15 Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter, the student shall have successfully completed
16 a core curriculum requirements of R.S. 17:5025 or 5025.3 or the core curriculum
17 defined as follows:

18 (1) English I, II, III, and IV (four units, or substitute one unit of Business
19 English for English IV).

20 (2) Algebra I (one unit); or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or
21 both Applied Mathematics I and Applied Mathematics II.

22 (3) Geometry, Applied Mathematics III, Algebra II, Financial Mathematics,
23 Advanced Mathematics I, Advanced Mathematics II, Discrete Mathematics, or
24 Probability and Statistics (two units). Integrated Mathematics I, II, and III may be
25 substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall be considered the
26 equivalent of the three required math units.

27 (4) Biology (one unit).

1 (5) Earth Science, Environmental Science, Agriscience I and II (both for one
2 unit), Physical Science, Integrated Science, Biology II, Chemistry or Applied
3 Chemistry, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology (two units).

4 (6) American History (one unit).

5 (7) World History, Western Civilization, or World Geography (one unit).

6 (8) Civics and Free Enterprise (one unit combined) or Civics (one unit,
7 nonpublic).

8 (9) Remaining core courses shall be selected from one of the following
9 options:

10 (a) OPTION 1, consisting of four units as follows:

11 (i) Fine Arts Survey (one unit) or drafting (one unit) or substitute two units
12 of performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or substitute two units of visual
13 art courses; or substitute two units of studio art courses; or a course from the career
14 and technical program of studies that is approved by the State Board of Elementary
15 and Secondary Education; or substitute one unit as an elective from among the other
16 subjects listed in this core curriculum.

17 (ii) Foreign Language, Technical Writing, Speech I, or Speech II (two units).

18 (iii) One unit from the secondary computer education program of studies that
19 is approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

20 (b) OPTION 2, consisting of six units required as a concentration under the
21 career options law as follows:

22 (i) At least four units in a career major comprised of a sequence of related
23 specialty courses.

24 (ii) At least two units in related or technical fields, including credit in a basic
25 computer course.

26 B. For a student graduating during or prior to the 2001-2002 school year, to
27 be eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter, the student shall meet
28 the standards for admission to the desired college or university and have successfully

1 completed a core curriculum requirements of Subsection A of this Section or of R.S.

2 17:5025.3 or the core curriculum defined as follows:

3 (1) English I, II, III, and IV (four units, or substitute one unit of Business
4 English for English IV).

5 (2) Algebra I (one unit) or Applied Algebra 1A and 1B (two units) and
6 Algebra II (one unit).

7 (3) Geometry or Applied Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, or comparable
8 Advanced Mathematics (one unit).

9 (4) Biology (one unit).

10 (5) Chemistry or Applied Physics (one unit).

11 (6) Earth Science, Environmental Science, Agriscience I and II (both for one
12 unit), Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for
13 Technology (one unit).

14 (7) American History (one unit).

15 (8) World History, Western Civilization, or World Geography (one unit).

16 (9) Civics and Free Enterprise (one unit combined) or Civics (one unit,
17 nonpublic).

18 (10) Fine Arts Survey or any approved vocational course in the areas of
19 Agriscience, Business Education, Family and Consumer Science, Health
20 Occupations, Marketing Education, Technology Education, or Trade and Industrial
21 Education (one unit); or substitute two units of performance courses in music, dance,
22 or theater; or substitute two units of visual art courses; or substitute two units of
23 studio art courses; or substitute one unit as an elective from among the other subjects
24 listed in this core curriculum.

25 (11) Foreign Language (one unit for students graduating from high school
26 during the 1996-1997 school year or the 1997-1998 school year; two units in a single
27 language for students graduating from high school during the 1998-1999 school year
28 and thereafter) or Technical Writing, Speech 1, or Speech II (two units).

1 (12) Computer Science, Computer Literacy, or Business Computer
2 Applications (one-half unit; or substitute at least one-half unit of an elective course
3 related to computers that is approved by the State Board of Elementary and
4 Secondary Education; or substitute at least one-half unit as an elective from among
5 the other subjects listed in this core curriculum).

6 §5027. Postsecondary institution enrollment

7 A.(1) Except as otherwise provided by this Section, to be eligible for an
8 award pursuant to this Chapter, the student shall enroll in an eligible college or
9 university as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer
10 semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the
11 student graduated from high school.

12 (2) The administering agency may grant exceptions to Paragraph (1) of this
13 Subsection for cause.

14 (3) If the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one year after
15 graduating from high school, has enrolled in an eligible college or university as a
16 first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or
17 sessions, immediately following the fifth anniversary of the date that the student
18 graduated from high school; however, effective for the 1996-1997 school year and
19 thereafter, if, on or prior to the fifth anniversary of the date that the student graduated
20 from high school, the student reenlists in the United States Armed Forces and
21 maintains continuous active duty, the five-year period shall be extended to the
22 semester immediately following the one-year anniversary of the student's separation
23 from active duty service.

24 B. "Eligible college or university" means a public college or university in
25 this state or a regionally accredited independent college or university in the state that
26 is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

27 C. Notwithstanding any provision of Subsection B of this Section, any
28 student who meets all applicable initial and continuing program eligibility
29 requirements of this Chapter for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award

1 may use such award at an out-of-state nonpublic college or university when each of
2 the following conditions is met:

3 (1) The college or university is accredited by a regional accrediting
4 organization recognized by the United States Department of Education.

5 (2) All programs and services at the college or university are specifically
6 designed to accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

7 (3) Deaf and hard-of-hearing students comprise the majority of students
8 enrolled at the college or university at the undergraduate level.

9 (4) The award recipient meets the admission requirements of the college or
10 university that are applicable to deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

11 (5) The initial program award is made to the student for the 2005-2006
12 award year or thereafter.

13 (6) The college or university provides to the administering agency such
14 information as would otherwise be required by the agency for program
15 administration purposes from an eligible Louisiana college or university if the
16 student was enrolled in such Louisiana institution.

17 D.(1) Effective for the 2009-2010 award year and thereafter, for purposes of
18 the TOPS-Tech Award as provided by this Chapter, the term "eligible colleges and
19 universities" shall include any school that has a valid and current certificate of
20 registration issued by the State Board of Cosmetology in accordance with law and
21 that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States
22 Department of Education and any proprietary school that has a valid and current
23 license issued by the Board of Regents in accordance with law and that is accredited
24 by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States Department of
25 Education. Such a school also shall comply with all other applicable provisions of
26 this Chapter and rules adopted by the administering agency relative to a college or
27 university being initially eligible and remaining eligible for program purposes.

28 (2) Effective for the 2010-2011 award year and thereafter, a student who is
29 the recipient of an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors award and who pursues skill

1 or occupational training as defined by the Board of Regents, including a vocational
2 or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic
3 undergraduate degree, may use the award at any school that has a valid and current
4 certificate of registration issued by the Louisiana State Board of Cosmetology in
5 accordance with law and that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized
6 by the United States Department of Education and at any proprietary school that has
7 a valid and current license issued by the Board of Regents in accordance with law
8 and that is accredited by an accrediting organization recognized by the United States
9 Department of Education. Such a school shall comply with all other applicable
10 provisions of this Chapter and rules adopted by the administering agency relative to
11 a college or university being initially eligible and remaining eligible for program
12 purposes.

13 §5028. Other student eligibility requirements

14 To be eligible for an award pursuant to this Chapter, a student shall not have
15 any criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations and, if the student
16 has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated from such service, he
17 has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable
18 conditions.

19 §5029. Alternative Initial Eligibility Requirements

20 A. A student who graduates from an out-of-state high school shall be eligible
21 to receive an award pursuant to this Chapter if each of the following conditions is
22 met:

23 (1) The student has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have met
24 one of the following criteria:

25 (a) The student graduated during the 1996-1997 school year or thereafter
26 from an out-of-state high school that has been approved by the appropriate state
27 educational agency in the state in which the school is located.

28 (b) The student graduated from an out-of-state high school that is accredited
29 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and that meets the standards

1 adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for approval of
2 nonpublic schools in Louisiana.

3 (c) The student graduated during the 2002-2003 school year or thereafter
4 from an out-of-state high school that is accredited by a regional accrediting
5 organization recognized by the United States Department of Education and that
6 meets the standards adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
7 Education for approval of nonpublic schools in Louisiana.

8 (d) The student graduated from a high school that has been approved by the
9 United States Department of Defense.

10 (e) The student graduated during the 2009-2010 school year or thereafter
11 with an International Baccalaureate Diploma from an out-of-state high school
12 approved by the International Baccalaureate Organization to issue such a diploma.

13 (2) The student meets the requirements of R.S. 17:5022, 5023, 5027, and
14 5028.

15 (3) The student has a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT which
16 is at least three points higher than that required by R.S. 17:5024(B) for the particular
17 award or an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such
18 test or on the SAT.

19 B. A student who completes a home study program shall be eligible to
20 receive an award pursuant to this Chapter if each of the following conditions is met:

21 (1)(a) The student has been certified by a parent or court-ordered custodian
22 to have successfully completed at the twelfth grade level a home study program
23 approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

24 (b)(i) Any such student who has previously attended a Louisiana public high
25 school or nonpublic high school that has been approved by the State Board of
26 Elementary and Secondary Education, must have begun his studies in the approved
27 home study program no later than the conclusion of the tenth grade year.

28 (ii) Any such student who has previously attended a Louisiana public high
29 school, a Louisiana nonpublic high school, or an out-of-state high school shall be

1 required to provide certification from the principal, headmaster, or other appropriate
2 person at the high school previously attended that the student was in good standing
3 at the time the student last attended such school.

4 (2) The student meets the requirements of R.S. 17:5022, 5023, 5027, and
5 5028.

6 (3) The student has a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT which
7 is at least three points higher than that required by R.S. 17:5024(B) for the particular
8 award or an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such
9 test or on the SAT.

10 C. A student who graduates from an out-of-country high school shall be
11 eligible to receive an Opportunity or TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter
12 each of the following conditions is met:

13 (1) The student meets one of the following criteria:

14 (a) The student has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have
15 graduated during the 2000-2001 school year or thereafter from a high school located
16 outside of the United States and its territories which meets the standards adopted by
17 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for approval of nonpublic
18 schools in Louisiana and which is accredited by an accrediting organization
19 recognized by the United States Department of Education.

20 (b)(i) The student has been certified by a parent or court-ordered custodian
21 to have successfully completed at the twelfth grade level a home study program
22 approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted
23 outside the United States and its territories.

24 (ii) Any such student who has previously attended a Louisiana public high
25 school, a Louisiana nonpublic high school, or an out-of-state high school shall be
26 required to provide certification from the principal, headmaster, or other appropriate
27 person at the high school previously attended that the student was in good standing
28 at the time the student last attended such school.

1 (c) The student has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have
2 graduated during the 2009-2010 school year or thereafter with an International
3 Baccalaureate Diploma from a high school located outside of the United States and
4 its territories and approved by the International Baccalaureate Organization to issue
5 such a diploma.

6 (2) The student meets the requirements of R.S. 17:5022, 5023, 5027, and
7 5028.

8 (3) The student has a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT which
9 is at least three points higher than that required by R.S. 17:5024(B) for the particular
10 award or an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such
11 test or on the SAT.

12 D.(1) Beginning with the 2004-2005 award year, a student who does not
13 graduate from high school or complete a home study program shall be eligible to
14 receive an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant to this Chapter if
15 each of the following conditions is met:

16 (a) As certified by a psychologist or psychiatrist licensed to practice in
17 Louisiana, the student has a score that is at least in the superior range on the
18 Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (Third Edition) or revised version of such
19 instrument or, if provided for by the administering agency by rule, has an equivalent
20 score on a comparable diagnostic instrument.

21 (b) As certified by a psychologist or psychiatrist licensed to practice in
22 Louisiana, the student has a composite score that is at least at the ninetieth percentile
23 at the twelfth grade level in the reading, mathematics, and written language portions
24 of the Wechsler Individual Achievement Test (Second Edition) or revised version
25 of such test or, if provided for by the administering agency by rule, has an equivalent
26 score on a comparable test.

27 (c) Prior to enrolling for the first time in an eligible college or university, the
28 student meets the requirements of R.S. 17:5024(B) otherwise applicable to a student
29 who graduates from an eligible Louisiana high school relative to the student having

1 at least the minimum composite score on the ACT or having an equivalent score on
2 the SAT as specified for the respective awards.

3 (d) The student enrolls in an eligible college or university and after
4 successful completion of twelve hours of credit the student is enrolled in such a
5 college or university on a full-time basis no later than his nineteenth birthday to
6 pursue an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level. A student's
7 award pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph shall be effective upon such
8 enrollment on a full-time basis.

9 (e) The student meets the requirements of R.S. 17:5022, 5023, 5027, and
10 5028.

11 (2) State payments on behalf of a student eligible for an award pursuant to
12 this Subsection shall be in the same amounts as otherwise provided for by this
13 Chapter for such award. The awards provided by this Subsection shall be for no
14 more than eight semesters or an equivalent number of units in a college or university
15 which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters unless an extension
16 is granted by the administering agency in accordance with its rules.

17 SUBPART C. MAINTAINING ELIGIBILITY

18 §5041. Maintaining eligibility; Honors, Performance, Opportunity

19 To maintain continued state payment of an amount equal to tuition and other
20 amounts for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant to this Chapter
21 once enrolled in college a student shall meet all of the following:

22 (1)(a) If pursuing an academic undergraduate degree, make steady academic
23 progress toward a degree as defined by the administering agency, earning not less
24 than the minimum number of hours of credit required for full-time standing in each
25 academic year or the required number of hours needed to complete the undergraduate
26 degree during that semester or quarter.

27 (b) If pursuing skill or occupational training, make steady academic progress
28 as defined by the administering agency toward completion of the requirements of the
29 program in which enrolled earning not less than the minimum number of hours of

1 credit required for full-time standing or the required number of hours needed to
2 complete the program's requirements.

3 (c) If at any time a student fails to maintain the cumulative grade point
4 average required for continuation in the program or as of the end of any semester or
5 term during the academic year fails to make steady academic progress as defined by
6 the administering agency, such student shall become ineligible for further payments.
7 Payments limited to those provided in R.S. 17:5002(B) regardless of whether the
8 originally granted award was an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award may
9 be reinstated upon attainment of the grade point average required by this Section for
10 a student to maintain continued state payments once enrolled in college and the
11 standards for steady academic progress as defined by the administering agency,
12 provided that the student has maintained other continuation requirements and the
13 period of ineligibility did not persist for more than two years from the date of loss
14 of eligibility. If this two-year period is interrupted due to a student's active duty
15 service in the United States Armed Forces, the two-year period shall be extended for
16 a length of time equal to the student's active duty service, not to exceed four years,
17 unless the student reenlists in the United States Armed Forces and maintains
18 continuous active duty, in which case the period shall be extended for a length of
19 time equal to the student's active duty service; or unless the student is granted an
20 exception for cause by the administering agency.

21 (2)(a) If pursuing an academic undergraduate degree, maintain continuous
22 enrollment for not less than two semesters or three quarters in each successive
23 academic year, unless granted an exception for cause by the administering agency.

24 (b) If pursuing skill or occupational training, maintain continuous enrollment
25 as a full-time student unless granted an exception for cause by the administering
26 agency.

27 (3) For students qualifying for an Opportunity Award, have a cumulative
28 grade point average of the following as evaluated at the end of each academic year:

1 (a) At least 2.30 calculated on a 4.00 scale after completion of twenty-four
2 hours of credit.

3 (b) At least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale after completion of forty-eight
4 hours of credit.

5 (4)(a) For students qualifying to receive a Performance or an Honors Award,
6 have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale at the end of
7 each academic year.

8 (b) However, if at any time an otherwise eligible student receiving a
9 Performance Award or an Honors Award in accordance with the provisions of this
10 Chapter fails to have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale
11 at the end of any academic year but has and continues to maintain a cumulative grade
12 point average at least equal to that required by Paragraph (3) of this Subsection for
13 continued participation by a recipient of an Opportunity Award, the student receiving
14 a Performance Award or an Honors Award shall remain eligible for state payments
15 but only in the amount provided for in R.S. 17:5002(B) for a recipient of an
16 Opportunity Award. The provisions of this Subparagraph shall apply to all students
17 who receive state payments pursuant to a Performance Award or an Honors Award,
18 including all such students from the beginning of the program.

19 (5) Have no criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations
20 and, if the student has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated
21 from such service, has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under
22 honorable conditions.

23 §5042. Maintaining eligibility; TOPS-Tech

24 To maintain continued state payment of an amount equal to tuition pursuant
25 to a TOPS-Tech Award once enrolled in an institution, a student shall meet all of the
26 following:

27 (1) Make steady academic progress as defined by the administering agency
28 toward completion of the requirements of the program in which enrolled earning not
29 less than the minimum number of hours of credit required for full-time standing or

1 the required number of hours needed to complete the program's requirements. If at
2 any time a student fails to maintain the cumulative grade point average required for
3 continuation in the program or as of the end of any term during the school year fails
4 to make steady academic progress as defined by the administering agency, the
5 student shall become ineligible for further payments. Payments may be reinstated
6 upon attainment of the grade point average required for continuation of the original
7 award and the standards for steady academic progress as defined by the
8 administering agency, provided that the student has maintained other continuation
9 requirements and the period of ineligibility did not persist for more than one year
10 from the date of loss of eligibility. If this one-year period is interrupted due to a
11 student's active duty service in the United States Armed Forces, the one-year period
12 shall be extended for a length of time equal to the student's active duty service, not
13 to exceed four years, unless the student reenlists in the United States Armed Forces
14 and maintains continuous active duty, in which case the period shall be extended for
15 a length of time equal to the student's active duty service; or unless the student is
16 granted an exception for cause by the administering agency.

17 (2) Maintain continuous enrollment as a full-time student unless granted an
18 exception for cause by the administering agency.

19 (3) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 calculated on a 4.00
20 scale.

21 (4) Have no criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations
22 and, if the student has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated
23 from such service, has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under
24 honorable conditions.

25 §5043. Returning Students

26 Notwithstanding any provision of this Chapter to the contrary, any otherwise
27 qualified student who meets each of the following conditions and who enrolls as a
28 first-time freshman in an out-of-state college or university, or beginning with the
29 2009-2010 academic year, first enrolls as a first-time freshman in an eligible college

1 or university in Louisiana and subsequently enrolls in an out-of-state college or
2 university, may use the program award provided for by this Section at an eligible
3 college or university in Louisiana in accordance with this Subsection and other
4 applicable provisions of this Chapter; however, the time period of award eligibility
5 set forth in R.S. 17:5002(E) shall be reduced by an equivalent number of units as
6 may be applicable for each semester or equivalent time period that the student is
7 enrolled in an out-of-state college or university:

8 (1) The student has been determined by the administering agency to meet the
9 initial eligibility requirements established by this Section for an Opportunity,
10 Performance, or Honors award.

11 (2)(a) The student enrolled as a first-time freshman in an out-of-state college
12 or university in accordance with the timelines specified by this Section for such
13 enrollment in an eligible college or university in Louisiana and the out-of-state
14 college or university is accredited by a regional accrediting organization recognized
15 by the United States Department of Education, or

16 (b) The student enrolled as a first-time freshman in an eligible college or
17 university in Louisiana in accordance with the timelines specified by this Section for
18 such enrollment, who subsequently enrolled in an out-of-state college or university
19 that is accredited by a regional accrediting organization recognized by the United
20 States Department of Education, and then reenrolled in an eligible college or
21 university in Louisiana during the 2009-2010 academic year or thereafter.

22 (3) While enrolled in such an out-of-state college or university the student
23 met all requirements of this Section that would have been applicable to such student
24 for continuation of the initial award if the student had enrolled in an eligible college
25 or university in Louisiana.

26 (4) The student graduated from high school during the 2001-2002 school
27 year or thereafter.

28 PART II. ADMINISTRATION

29 §5061. Administering agency

1 The provisions of this Chapter shall be administered by the Louisiana Student
2 Financial Assistance Commission. The administering agency may provide by rule
3 adopted as provided by the Administrative Procedure Act for all matters necessary
4 to the implementation of this Chapter.

5 §5062. Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines

6 A. The administering agency shall provide by rule for the following:

7 (1) A mechanism for informing all students of the availability of the
8 assistance provided pursuant to this Chapter early enough in their schooling that a
9 salutary motivational effect is possible.

10 (2) Applications, forms, financial audit procedures, eligibility and other
11 program audit procedures, and other matters related to efficient operation, including
12 timelines and deadlines for receipt by the administering agency of any information
13 required to implement the provisions of this Chapter. The administering agency may
14 provide an alternative application for students who can demonstrate that they do not
15 qualify for federal grant aid.

16 B. The administering agency shall provide the following procedures and
17 requirements:

18 (1) A procedure for waiver through the 2002-2003 school year of the
19 requirement that a student complete the high school curriculum specified in R.S.
20 17:1515.1 and 1516(B), upon proper documentation by the high school's principal
21 or authorized designee that failure to comply with such requirement was due solely
22 to the fact that the required course or courses were not available to the applicant at
23 the school attended.

24 (2) A procedure whereby any student graduating from high school during the
25 1996-1997 or the 1997-1998 school year who is required to meet the provisions of
26 R.S. 17:1515.1(11) or 1516(B)(11) relative to successful completion of one unit of
27 Foreign Language shall be able to meet such requirement after graduating from high
28 school.

1 (3) A procedure for waiver of the requirement that a student complete the
2 high school curriculum specified in this Chapter upon proper documentation by the
3 high school's principal or authorized designee that the student is an exceptional child
4 as defined by R.S. 17:1943(4), excluding gifted and talented, and that failure to
5 comply with the specified curriculum was due solely to the student's exceptionality.

6 (4) A procedure for waiver of a high school curriculum requirement
7 specified in this Chapter for any student not otherwise covered by the provisions of
8 Paragraph (3) of this Subsection but who has one or more learning, visual, hearing,
9 or physical disabilities diagnosed by a person licensed or certified to diagnose such
10 disability, when the diagnosis states the need for the student to be provided special
11 accommodation by the high school relative to the curriculum requirement, the
12 student requested and was provided such special accommodation by the high school,
13 and failure to comply with the curriculum requirement was due solely to the student
14 being disabled.

15 (5) A requirement that all reports of student performance or disability
16 submitted to the administering agency and used to determine student eligibility be
17 certified by the responsible authority.

18 C. The administering agency shall provide the following guidelines:

19 (1) Guidelines and procedures by which the administering agency, subject
20 to prior approval by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, may
21 update the course name and establish course equivalencies for any course included
22 in the definition of core curriculum provided by this Chapter, including necessary
23 changes to course names and equivalencies for Advanced Placement and
24 International Baccalaureate courses as prescribed by the College Board or the
25 International Baccalaureate Foundation. The guidelines and procedures shall include
26 but not be limited to a requirement that any change in a course name and the
27 establishment of any course equivalency be done by rule adopted by the
28 administering agency and a requirement that prior to issuing a notice of intent to
29 consider any such rule the administering agency shall consult with and seek the

1 written comments and recommendations of the Board of Regents on making the
2 name change or establishing the course equivalency.

3 (2) Guidelines and procedures directing that when tuition is paid from a
4 source other than the award made pursuant to this Chapter, the award shall be
5 applied by the institution attended by the student toward payment of expenses other
6 than tuition which are described in the term "cost of attendance" as that term is
7 defined in 20 U.S.C. 1087(II), as amended, for the purpose of qualifying the student
8 or his parent or court-ordered custodian for the federal income tax credits provided
9 for under 26 U.S.C. 25A.

10 (3)(a) Guidelines and procedures permitting the administering agency to
11 receive and consider an application for an initial award, an application for the
12 continuation of an award, or an application to return from an out-of-state college or
13 university under this Chapter that is received by the agency after the final deadline
14 established by the agency for the receipt of such application but not later than one
15 hundred twenty days after the deadline.

16 (b) Guidelines and procedures permitting the administering agency, for the
17 2007-2008 academic year and thereafter, to receive and consider an application for
18 an award under this Chapter as authorized by R.S. 17:5023 that is received by the
19 agency after the final deadline established by the agency for the receipt of such
20 application, but not later than one hundred twenty days after the deadline.

21 (c)(i) When granting an award based on an application that is considered by
22 the agency pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph and such application is
23 received by the agency not later than sixty days after the final deadline, the agency
24 shall reduce the time period of eligibility for the award as set forth in R.S. 17:5002
25 by one semester or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which
26 operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters.

27 (ii) When granting an award based on an application that is considered by
28 the agency pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph and such application is
29 received by the agency more than sixty days after the final deadline, the agency shall

1 reduce the time period of eligibility for the award as set forth in R.S. 17:5002 by two
2 semesters or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which operates
3 on a schedule based on units other than semesters.

4 (4)(a) Guidelines and procedures permitting the administering agency to
5 receive and consider, beginning with awards made for the 2000-2001 academic year
6 and through the 2002-2003 academic year, an applicant's qualifying score on the
7 ACT or on the SAT that is obtained on an authorized testing date after the date of the
8 applicant's high school graduation but prior to July first of the year of such
9 graduation.

10 (b) Guidelines and procedures permitting the administering agency to receive
11 and consider, beginning with awards made for the 2003-2004 academic year and
12 thereafter, an applicant's qualifying score on the ACT or on the SAT which is first
13 obtained on an authorized testing date after the national April ACT testing date in the
14 year of the applicant's high school graduation but prior to July first of the year of
15 such graduation.

16 (c) Guidelines and procedures permitting the administering agency to receive
17 and consider, beginning with awards made for the 2011-2012 academic year and
18 thereafter, an applicant's qualifying score on the ACT or on the SAT which is first
19 obtained on an authorized testing date after the national April ACT testing date in the
20 year of the applicant's high school graduation but prior to July first of the year of
21 such graduation or, if the administering authority determines that the applicant was
22 prevented from taking the test prior to July first of the year of graduation due to
23 circumstances beyond the immediate control of the student and attributable to the
24 administration of the test, prior to September thirtieth of the year of such graduation.

25 (d) When granting an award to an applicant whose qualifying test score is
26 considered by the agency pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph, the agency
27 shall reduce the time period of eligibility for the award as set forth in R.S. 17:5002
28 by one semester or an equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which
29 operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters.

1 §5063. Notice of Program Changes

2 In addition to any other requirements of this Chapter, the administering
3 agency shall notify all appropriate public and nonpublic school personnel, including
4 school counselors, of any changes in law or agency rules relative to the Taylor
5 Opportunity Program for Students no later than sixty days after such change.

6 §5064. School Boards

7 Each city and parish school board for the high school under its jurisdiction
8 or the principals of such high schools and the principal or headmaster of each
9 nonpublic high school approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
10 Education shall:

11 (1) Using the criteria in Subpart B of Part 1 of this Chapter as the minimum
12 qualifications for selection, identify and certify to the administering agency those
13 achieving the required academic standards to qualify for an award pursuant to this
14 Chapter.

15 (2) Using the criteria in Subpart B of Part 1 of this Chapter as the minimum
16 qualifications for selection, identify and certify to the administering agency those
17 achieving the required academic standards to qualify for a TOPS-Tech award
18 pursuant to this Chapter.

19 §5065 Funding

20 A.(1) The legislature annually shall appropriate to the administering agency
21 funds which, together with any other funds available, are sufficient to cover the costs
22 required to be paid, both initial and continuing, for the coming academic year. All
23 such payments shall be made by the administering agency directly to the institution
24 to which such payment is due after notice to the institution that the state shall pay,
25 on behalf of the qualifying student, the applicable amount stipulated in this Chapter
26 and after notice from the institution that the student has actually enrolled.

27 (2) Effective beginning with the 1999-2000 academic year and thereafter, no
28 state payments made on behalf of any student receiving an award pursuant to the
29 provisions of this Chapter shall be used by an institution of higher education to

1 supplant the granting of free tuition for such student pursuant to a scholarship given
2 in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 43 of the 1884 Regular Session of the
3 Legislature, as amended.

4 B. The administering agency may seek, accept, and expend funds from any
5 source, including private business, industry, foundations, and other groups as well
6 as any federal or other governmental funding available for this purpose.

7 C. Implementation of the tuition payment program provided by this Chapter
8 shall be subject to the appropriation of funds for this purpose.

9 D.(1) In the event the legislature appropriates insufficient money to fund all
10 awards made to students qualifying under the provisions of this Chapter, the number
11 of students to whom awards shall be made shall be reduced as necessary pursuant to
12 a procedure set out by rule adopted by the administering agency. The procedure
13 shall provide for such reduction to be based on the scores on the ACT and then on
14 the ability of each student's family to pay the student's tuition as evidenced by the
15 expected family contribution determined by using the standardized federal
16 methodology for establishing student financial need. The procedure shall provide
17 that reductions of awards made necessary by insufficient appropriations shall first
18 eliminate the cohort of students who score lowest on the ACT. The procedures shall
19 provide that within that cohort of students, those whose families are most able to pay
20 the student's tuition shall be eliminated first. After insufficient appropriations
21 require the elimination of all students in such cohort, the procedures shall require
22 repeating the process with those students in the next highest score cohort.

23 (2) Among students denied their awards as provided in this Subsection, those
24 students whose families have the least capacity to pay shall be the first to receive
25 their awards if monies become available. Any student for whom the expected family
26 contribution cannot be determined as provided for in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection
27 shall be denied his award until the legislature appropriates sufficient monies to fund
28 all awards made to students qualifying under the provisions of this Chapter.

29 §5066. With other financial assistance

1 A. A grant awarded pursuant to this Chapter may be combined with a
2 disbursement from the Louisiana Student Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust
3 Program, as provided in R.S. 17:3091 through 3099.2, to pay the student's tuition,
4 and any portion of the grant which is offset by such a disbursement shall then be
5 expended in payment of current year educational expenses as defined by the
6 administering agency and billed to the student by the institution. Any remaining
7 balance of the grant award may then be expended by the student in payment of room
8 and board.

9 B.(1)(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this Chapter to the contrary, any
10 student who qualifies for an award as provided in this Chapter and who also qualifies
11 for any other financial assistance offered by the state public college or university
12 which the student attends shall be allowed to combine such award and financial
13 assistance in any manner to cover any "cost of attendance" as determined for that
14 student in accordance with regulations governing the award of federal student aid
15 under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended, including room and
16 board, books, and other instructional materials.

17 (b) Additionally, notwithstanding any provision of this Chapter to the
18 contrary and effective for the 2004-2005 award year and thereafter, any student who
19 qualifies for an award as provided in this Chapter shall be allowed to use such award
20 in any manner to cover any "cost of attendance" at an eligible public college or
21 university as determined for that student in accordance with regulations governing
22 the award of federal student aid under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965
23 as amended.

24 (2) If a student is receiving other financial assistance that, when combined
25 with a tuition payment under this Chapter, exceeds the "cost of attendance" as
26 determined for that student in accordance with regulations governing the award of
27 federal student aid under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended,
28 the amount of the tuition payment shall be reduced by the amount of such excess.

1 (3)(a)(i) Any student who receives a financial assistance award pursuant to
2 this Chapter may elect to accept the award on the basis provided in this Paragraph.
3 The student may elect to delay the acceptance of his financial assistance award until
4 after the student, if he is not claimed as a dependent of a parent or court-ordered
5 custodian on a federal income tax return, or his parent or court-ordered custodian,
6 if he is claimed as a dependent on a federal income tax return, files his federal
7 income tax return.

8 (ii) If the student delays the acceptance of his award and the student, parent,
9 or court-ordered custodian claims a federal income tax credit for money expended
10 on educational tuition for the postsecondary education of the student, the
11 administering agency shall pay directly to the student an amount equal to the amount
12 of the award that would have been paid to the eligible institution on behalf of the
13 student less the amount of the tax credit claimed plus as an incentive for claiming the
14 credit and thus reducing the cost to the state of this program, an amount equal to
15 twenty-five percent of the amount of the credit claimed.

16 (iii) If the student delays the acceptance of his award and the student, parent,
17 or court-ordered custodian does not claim such a credit, then the amount of the award
18 that would have been paid to the eligible institution on behalf of the student shall be
19 paid directly to the student.

20 (b) In order to receive the additional incentive payment provided for in Item
21 (a)(ii) of this Paragraph, the student, parent, or court-ordered custodian filing the
22 return shall provide such proof to the administering agency of the amount of federal
23 income tax credit for money expended on educational tuition claimed as required by
24 the agency, including access to their federal income tax records or other appropriate
25 records.

26 (c) In any case in which the award amount is paid directly to the student as
27 a result of an election under this Paragraph, the amount of the award may be
28 expended on any item considered as part of the "cost of attendance" as determined

1 for that student in accordance with regulations governing the award for federal
2 student aid under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

3 (d) The administering agency shall establish by rule the procedure and time
4 schedules necessary for a student to make the election provided for in this Paragraph,
5 for receipt of notice of such an election by the agency, and for delayed payment of
6 the award and any applicable incentive.

7 (e) In any case in which a federal income tax credit claim for tuition is
8 disallowed, no additional payment shall be made by the agency as a result.

9 (f) The election provided for in this Paragraph may be made in any year for
10 which the student is eligible for an award under this Paragraph.

11 §5066. Program information reporting system; implementation; requirements;
12 applicability; participation by eligible institutions and others

13 A.(1) The Board of Regents shall formulate, develop, establish, and
14 implement a uniform Taylor Opportunity Program for Students information reporting
15 system for the purposes of policy analysis and program evaluation and for providing
16 accurate data and statistics to the legislature, the governor and appropriate executive
17 branch agencies, and the public relative to the program's impact on the state and on
18 students.

19 (2) In formulating and developing the information reporting system, the
20 Board of Regents shall consult with and seek written recommendations from the
21 Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission, each college or university
22 eligible for participation in the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, each of the
23 public postsecondary education management boards, the Louisiana Association of
24 Independent Colleges and Universities, legislators, and knowledgeable others as
25 determined appropriate by the Board of Regents.

26 (3) It is the intention of the legislature that the reporting system provided by
27 this Section and the requirements thereof shall be applicable to all Taylor
28 Opportunity Program for Students applicants, all award recipients regardless of
29 eligible college or university attended, and all such eligible colleges and universities.

1 Effective for the 2002-2003 award year and thereafter, compliance with the
2 requirements of the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students information reporting
3 system shall be a condition for an eligible college or university to remain eligible to
4 receive payments from the state on behalf of an award recipient. Compliance
5 determinations shall be made annually by the Board of Regents.

6 B. The Taylor Opportunity Program for Students information reporting
7 system shall include but not be limited to the following:

8 (1) A report prepared as of the end of the Fall semester and again as of the
9 end of the Spring semester or equivalent periods of time during each academic year
10 relative to the rate of retention of program awards by students as they progress from
11 semester to semester or other equivalent periods of time as may be applicable once
12 enrolled at an eligible college or university. The data shall be reported by institution
13 attended, by the two-digit classification of instructional program, and by program
14 award category and shall include the percent of students losing program eligibility
15 due to not earning the minimum number of credit hours, the percent of students
16 losing program eligibility due to not having the required cumulative grade point
17 average, and the percent of students losing program eligibility for failing to make
18 steady academic progress.

19 (2) The persistence rates at colleges and universities of freshman,
20 sophomore, junior, and senior students receiving a program award reported by award
21 category and by award year.

22 (3) The graduation rates or rates of completion of the chosen postsecondary
23 education program if otherwise applicable for students receiving a program award,
24 reported by award category and award year, including for those graduating with an
25 academic degree at the baccalaureate level the rate for persons graduating within four
26 years, within five years, and within six years, respectively.

27 (4) The mean length of time required for a student receiving a program
28 award to graduate with an academic degree at the baccalaureate level or to complete

1 the chosen postsecondary education program if otherwise applicable with such
2 information being reported by award category and by award year.

3 (5) An annual report on the number of applicants as well as the percent of
4 high school graduates by high school and by parish who apply for a program award,
5 by award category, and the percent of those students who subsequently enroll in a
6 college or university.

7 (6) Statistical studies on the relationship between the courses taken and
8 grades earned by a high school student and the student's score on the ACT or the
9 SAT. Relative to public high schools, such statistical studies shall use student course
10 and grade data that is otherwise available from the schools and such studies shall be
11 conducted at no additional cost to the governing authority of any public high school.

12 (7) Demographic information of program award recipients, including but not
13 limited to race, gender, and parents' household income.

14 (8) High school grade point average and ACT or concordant SAT scores of
15 program award recipients grouped by mean, median, and mode.

16 (9) High school grade point average and ACT or concordant SAT score
17 cross-referenced with those students who lost the award and those who were placed
18 on probationary status and the reasons therefor.

19 C. When necessary due to limitations in existing secondary data sources and
20 systems, the Board of Regents, consistent with the general provisions of this Section,
21 may modify any specific requirement of this Section. However, prior to making any
22 such modifications the board shall report in writing to the House Committee on
23 Education and the Senate Committee on Education on the proposed action and the
24 board shall have received approval from each committee relative to the proposed
25 action.

26 D. The Board of Regents shall submit a written report including all of the
27 information required by this Section for the preceding academic year to the Senate
28 Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education, not later than
29 December first of each year.

1 E. All information reported pursuant to this Section shall be reported in the
2 aggregate only and shall contain no personally identifiable information for any
3 recipient of a program award.

4 §5067. Miscellaneous

5 A. Each student who initially qualifies for more than one award under the
6 provisions of this Chapter shall receive the award requiring the most rigorous
7 eligibility criteria.

8 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter to the contrary, any
9 public or private entity, including any nonprofit organization, may make a directed
10 donation to any eligible postsecondary institution for a student who is a recipient of
11 a Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students eligibility.

12 C. Annually, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission shall,
13 with the cooperation and assistance of the state's institutions of postsecondary
14 education, query each first-time recipient of a Taylor Opportunity Program for
15 Students award to determine the extent to which receiving the award influenced the
16 decision of the student to attend a Louisiana college or university.

17 D.(1) Recognizing the success and growth of the Taylor Opportunity
18 Program for Students program and in order to maintain the long-term financial
19 stability of such program, private businesses, industry, foundations, charities, and
20 other individuals or groups may request from the division of administration that,
21 notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, they may create scholarship
22 programs to make payments to eligible colleges and universities on behalf of
23 individual students. If the division of administration were to approve a private
24 scholarship program then any scholarship funds received by an eligible college or
25 university from such private scholarship program on behalf of a student shall cause
26 a reduction in the dollar amount of the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students
27 award associated with that student to an amount that is equal to the dollar amount
28 that the award would have been if no such private scholarship funds had been

1 received less the amount of private scholarship funds received by the eligible college
2 or university.

3 (2) This Subsection shall in no way be interpreted in such a manner that a
4 student could receive less benefits from a combination of the award from the
5 program and the private scholarship funded on his behalf then he would have
6 received solely from the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students program if there
7 had been no private scholarship funded on his behalf. Therefore, to the extent that
8 any privately funded scholarship funds provided for in this Subsection made to an
9 eligible college or university on behalf of a qualified student are for an amount less
10 than the amount a given student would have otherwise received if no such private
11 scholarship funds had been paid as an award under the Taylor Opportunity Program
12 for Students, then the eligible college or university shall receive that difference on
13 behalf of the student as the student's award from the Taylor Opportunity Program for
14 Students.

15 (3) As provided in this Subsection, when an eligible college or university
16 receives privately funded scholarship funds on behalf of a student, the state funds for
17 the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students shall be reduced by the amount of the
18 private scholarship program funds so received. It is understood and provided that a
19 reduction shall not effect the estimated nature of the Taylor Opportunity Program for
20 Students appropriation as provided in the act or acts that contain such appropriations.
21 The commissioner of administration shall determine and specify the amount of the
22 reduction from the source of the funds to provide the maximum benefit to the state
23 from the privately funded scholarship program. The state treasurer shall deposit the
24 amount of such reduction as specified by the commissioner of administration into the
25 Overcollections Fund created in R.S. 39:100.21 and credit the deposit to an account
26 within the fund hereby established and created to be known as the "Program
27 Participation Savings Account".

28 E.(1) Notwithstanding any rule by the administering agency to the contrary,
29 no student who is otherwise qualified for an award under this Chapter and who

1 graduated during the 1997-1998 school year from a Louisiana public high school or
2 nonpublic high school that is approved by the State Board of Elementary and
3 Secondary Education and who submitted a qualifying score on the ACT and who
4 obtained such qualifying score on an authorized testing date after the date of the
5 student's high school graduation but prior to July 1, 1998, shall be determined by the
6 administering agency to be ineligible for an award due solely to the fact that the
7 student took the test after graduating from high school.

8 (2) Notwithstanding any rule by the administering agency to the contrary,
9 no dependent student who is otherwise qualified for an award under this Chapter and
10 who graduated during the 1997-1998 school year from a Louisiana public high
11 school or nonpublic high school that is approved by the State Board of Elementary
12 and Secondary Education shall be determined by the administering agency to be
13 ineligible for an award due solely to the fact that the student's parents became
14 nonresidents during the student's senior year in high school provided that the parents
15 were residents of Louisiana as provided for by this Section during the twenty-four
16 months preceding the date they became nonresidents.

17 (3) Notwithstanding any rule by the administering agency to the contrary,
18 no student who is otherwise qualified for an award under this Chapter and who
19 graduated during the 1998-1999 school year from a Louisiana public high school or
20 nonpublic high school that is approved by the State Board of Elementary and
21 Secondary Education and who submitted a qualifying score on the ACT and who
22 obtained such qualifying score on an authorized testing date after the date of the
23 student's high school graduation but prior to July 1, 1999, shall be determined by the
24 administering agency to be ineligible for an award due solely to the fact that the
25 student took the test after graduating from high school.

26 (4)(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this Chapter or administering
27 agency rule to the contrary, for any student who meets each of the following
28 conditions the state shall award, beginning with the 2000-2001 academic year and
29 continuing for the remainder of the student's program eligibility, the sum of two

1 hundred dollars per semester or four hundred dollars per academic year which shall
2 be in addition to the amount determined to equal the tuition charged by the public
3 college or university attended or, if applicable, the amount provided by this Section
4 for attendance at an eligible nonpublic college or university:

5 (i) Prior to June 18, 1999, the student was determined by the administering
6 agency to be eligible for a Performance Award pursuant to the provisions of this
7 Chapter but chose to receive and was awarded an Opportunity Award.

8 (ii) The student, once enrolled at an eligible institution, met and continues
9 to meet all requirements of this Chapter to maintain continued state payment for a
10 Performance Award.

11 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this Chapter or administering agency
12 rule to the contrary, for any student who meets each of the following conditions the
13 state shall award, beginning with the 2000-2001 academic year and continuing for
14 the remainder of the student's program eligibility, the sum of four hundred dollars
15 per semester or eight hundred dollars per academic year which shall be in addition
16 to the amount determined to equal the tuition charged by the public college or
17 university attended or, if applicable, the amount provided by this Section for
18 attendance at an eligible nonpublic college or university:

19 (i) Prior to June 18, 1999, the student was determined by the administering
20 agency to be eligible for an Honors Award pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter
21 but chose to receive and was awarded an Opportunity Award.

22 (ii) The student, once enrolled at an eligible institution, met and continues
23 to meet all requirements of this Chapter to maintain continued state payment for an
24 Honors Award.

25 (5) Notwithstanding any rule by the administering agency to the contrary,
26 no student who graduates from high school in less than four years and who receives
27 an award under this Chapter shall be restricted or otherwise delayed as to the date the
28 award may be first used at an eligible institution due to the student having graduated
29 from high school in less than four years.

1 F. No student shall receive a grant pursuant to this Section in an amount
2 greater than the tuition charged by the institution attended or, if the student is the
3 recipient of a Performance or an Honors Award as defined by R.S. 17:5002(C). The
4 institution shall credit any amount in excess of the cost of tuition to the student's
5 account to pay room and board or other "cost of attendance". The student shall apply
6 for a federal grant prior to receiving a grant of state funds under this Section unless
7 the student can demonstrate that he does not qualify for federal grant aid.

8 PART III. TOPS-TECH EARLY START AWARD

9 §5081. TOPS-Tech Early Start Award; purpose; eligibility; award amounts
10 limitations; administration; implementation; reports

11 A. The TOPS-Tech Early Start Award is hereby established as part of the
12 Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students for eligible eleventh and twelfth
13 grade students attending Louisiana public high schools.

14 B.(1) A TOPS-Tech Early Start Award may be used to fund any technical
15 or applied course leading to an Industry-Based Certification, a Certificate of Applied
16 Science, and a Certificate of Technical Sciences offered at a Louisiana public or
17 nonpublic postsecondary education institution or by any Louisiana training provider
18 recognized by the Louisiana Workforce Commission and approved by the State
19 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as provided in Paragraph (4) of this
20 Subsection when such certification or certificate is approved by the Workforce
21 Investment Council as meeting the following requirements:

22 (a) Is identified by the Occupation Forecasting Conference as a credential
23 for an occupation in top demand in Louisiana.

24 (b) Is recognized by the State Industry-Based Certification Leadership
25 Council.

26 (2) An eligible recipient may receive a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award for
27 two semesters during the eleventh grade and two semesters during the twelfth grade,
28 excluding summer sessions.

1 (3) The administering agency, on behalf of a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award
2 recipient, shall pay to the Louisiana postsecondary education institution in which the
3 student is enrolled in an eligible program of studies or a training program provider
4 an amount of one hundred fifty dollars for each three credit-hour or equivalent time
5 course taken by the student, not to exceed two such courses per high school semester
6 for an eleventh-grade student and two such courses per high school semester for a
7 twelfth-grade student.

8 (4)(a) By January thirty-first annually, the State Board of Elementary and
9 Secondary Education shall determine which training program providers it approves
10 for the academic year that begins in the fall of that year.

11 (b) For the 2014-2015 academic year, the number of training program
12 providers at which a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award may be used shall be limited to
13 five providers as selected by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
14 Education.

15 (c) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
16 promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure
17 Act to implement the provisions of this Paragraph.

18 (5) Implementation of the provisions of this Section shall be subject to the
19 appropriation of funds for this purpose.

20 C. An application for a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award shall be required at
21 a time and in a manner and form established by the administering agency. At a
22 minimum, information necessary to fully inform Louisiana public high school
23 students and their parents on the requirements of and procedures for applying for the
24 award shall be made available by the administering agency in the same manner as
25 required by law for other awards provided by the Taylor Opportunity Program for
26 Students.

27 D. To be eligible for an initial TOPS-Tech Early Start Award, a student shall
28 meet each of the following conditions and comply with other applicable provisions
29 of this Section and administering agency rules:

1 (1) Be in the eleventh or twelfth grade in a Louisiana public school.

2 (2) Have prepared a five-year education and career plan, including a
3 sequence of related courses with a career focus as provided by Subpart A-1 of Part
4 III of Chapter 1 of this Title.

5 (3) Have a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses
6 attempted of not less than 2.0 when calculated on a 4.0 scale.

7 (4) Score at least fifteen on the English subsection and fifteen on the
8 mathematics subsection of the ACT PLAN assessment administered as part of
9 Louisiana's Educational Planning and Assessment System.

10 E. To maintain continuing eligibility for a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award,
11 a student must meet each of the following conditions and comply with other
12 applicable provisions of this Section and administering agency rules:

13 (1) Be a student in good standing in a Louisiana public high school.

14 (2) Maintain a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses
15 attempted of not less than 2.0 when calculated on a 4.0 scale.

16 (3) Be a student in good standing while enrolled in a Louisiana public or
17 nonpublic postsecondary education institution or training program and continue to
18 pursue one or more courses leading to an industry-based credential.

19 F.(1) The provisions of this Section shall be administered by the Louisiana
20 Student Financial Assistance Commission, herein referred to as the "administering
21 agency". Except as otherwise provided by this Section, the authority granted to and
22 limitations placed on the administering agency by Parts I and II of this Chapter
23 relative to administering other awards pursuant to the Taylor Opportunity Program
24 for Students shall be deemed to apply also to the administration of the TOPS-Tech
25 Early Start Award.

26 (2) The agency shall adopt, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure
27 Act, rules to implement and administer the provisions of this Section. Such rules
28 shall include but not be limited to necessary guidelines, policies, procedures, forms,
29 and time lines.

1 G. Prior to the convening of each regular legislative session, the Louisiana
2 Student Financial Assistance Commission shall provide to the governor, the House
3 Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education a written review
4 and analysis of TOPS-Tech Early Start awards relative to award use by students and
5 the benefits therefrom as well as the impact on subsequent use by students of TOPS-
6 Tech awards.

7 PART IV. STUDENTS DISPLACED BY CERTAIN NATURAL DISASTERS

8 §5101. Initial eligibility for program awards; students displaced by certain natural
9 disasters; waivers and exceptions; limitations

10 A.(1)(a) The legislature finds that due to the effects of natural disasters
11 declared by the governor on August 26, 2005, relative to Hurricane Katrina, and on
12 September 20, 2005, relative to Hurricane Rita, it is in the best interest for the
13 education of the people of the state that initial eligibility requirements established in
14 R.S. 17:3048.1 for awards pursuant to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students
15 be modified as provided by this Section for the 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008,
16 and 2008-2009 school years for students displaced as a result of the disasters.

17 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, all
18 modifications of initial eligibility requirements established in Part I of this Chapter
19 for awards pursuant to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students provided by this
20 Section for the 2005-2006 school year for a displaced student and for a dependent
21 student pursuant to the provisions of Subitems (B)(1)(c)(ii)(aa) and (bb) of this
22 Section shall be applicable to a displaced student and a dependent student, as
23 applicable, for the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 school years.

24 (2) For the purposes of this Section, the phrase "a student displaced as a
25 result of the disasters", hereinafter referred to in this Section as a "displaced student",
26 shall mean a student who meets either or both of the following conditions:

27 (a) The student, on August 26, 2005, was enrolled in a public high school or
28 a nonpublic high school having the approvals by the State Board of Elementary and
29 Secondary Education required by Part I of this Chapter for program eligibility

1 purposes and such school was located in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines,
2 St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, or Washington Parish or the student resided
3 in such a parish and was enrolled in a home study program approved by the State
4 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

5 (b) The student, on September 20, 2005, was enrolled in a public high school
6 or a nonpublic high school having the approvals by the State Board of Elementary
7 and Secondary Education required by Part I of this Chapter for program eligibility
8 purposes and such school was located in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu,
9 Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, St. Mary, Terrebonne, or Vermilion Parish or the
10 student resided in such a parish and was enrolled in a home study program approved
11 by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

12 B.(1) Relative to initial eligibility requirements for a Taylor Opportunity
13 Program for Students award applicable to a student displaced during the 2005-2006
14 school year, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission, in accordance
15 with the Administrative Procedure Act, shall provide by rule as follows:

16 (a) A displaced student who has been certified by the principal or headmaster
17 to have graduated during the 2005-2006 school year from an out-of-state high school
18 that meets the criteria to be an eligible out-of-state high school as provided in R.S.
19 17:5029 shall not be required to have for the respective awards a higher minimum
20 composite score on the ACT or on the SAT than required for a student who graduates
21 from an eligible Louisiana high school provided such student has, for a TOPS-Tech
22 Award or Opportunity Award, a cumulative high school grade point average on all
23 courses on the high school transcript of at least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale or, for
24 a Performance or Honors award, a cumulative high school grade point average on all
25 courses on the high school transcript of at least 3.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale.

26 (b) The program requirement that a student who graduates from an eligible
27 Louisiana high school during the 2005-2006 school year must have successfully
28 completed the applicable core curriculum shall be waived for a displaced student
29 upon proper documentation by the student's high school principal or headmaster or

1 authorized designee that failure to comply with such requirement is due solely to the
2 fact that the required course or courses were not available to the student at the school
3 attended.

4 (c)(i) A dependent or independent displaced student shall be deemed to meet
5 the residency requirements for a program award if such student actually resided in
6 Louisiana during his entire eleventh grade year of high school and was enrolled for
7 such time in an eligible Louisiana high school or, for dependent students, if the
8 displaced student has a parent or court-ordered custodian who actually resided in a
9 parish listed in Subparagraph (A)(2)(a) of this Section for at least the twelve months
10 prior to August 26, 2005, or in a parish listed in Subparagraph (A)(2)(b) of this
11 Section for at least the twelve months prior to September 20, 2005.

12 (ii)(aa) A parent or court-ordered custodian of a dependent student who is
13 eligible for a program award pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 17:5029, relative to
14 students who graduate from certain out-of-state high schools, and who was displaced
15 as a resident from a parish listed in Subparagraph (A)(2)(a) of this Section due to
16 Hurricane Katrina shall be deemed to meet program residency requirements if such
17 parent or court-ordered custodian actually resided in Louisiana for at least the twelve
18 months prior to August 26, 2005.

19 (bb) A parent or court-ordered custodian of a dependent student who is
20 eligible for a program award pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 17:5029, relative to
21 students who graduate from certain out-of-state high schools, and who was displaced
22 as a resident from a parish listed in Subparagraph (A)(2)(b) of this Section due to
23 Hurricane Rita shall be deemed to meet program residency requirements if such
24 parent or court-ordered custodian actually resided in Louisiana for at least the twelve
25 months prior to September 20, 2005.

26 (d) A displaced student who during the 2005-2006 school year successfully
27 completes at the twelfth grade level a home study program approved by the State
28 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall be eligible for program awards
29 by complying with the provisions of R.S. 17:5029, relative to certain students who

1 have successfully completed home study programs approved by the state board. In
2 such case, the statutory requirement that a student, if ever enrolled in a eligible
3 Louisiana high school, must have begun his approved home study program no later
4 than the conclusion of the tenth grade year shall not apply to the displaced student.

5 (2)(a)(i) Relative to initial eligibility requirements for a Taylor Opportunity
6 Program for Students award applicable for the 2005-2006 school year to a displaced
7 student, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission, in consultation
8 with the commissioner of higher education and in accordance with the
9 Administrative Procedure Act, shall by rule waive any provision of Part I of this
10 Chapter that imposes on such displaced student a program requirement or condition
11 that such student cannot comply with or meet when it is determined by the
12 commission that a failure to comply with the requirement or meet the condition,
13 more likely than not, is due solely to a consequence of Hurricane Katrina or Rita, or
14 both.

15 (ii) Relative to initial eligibility requirements for a Taylor Opportunity
16 Program for Students award applicable for the 2005-2006 school year to any student
17 displaced during the 2005-2006 school year as a consequence of a disaster or
18 emergency other than Hurricane Katrina or Rita and for which the governor declares
19 a state of emergency to exist, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance
20 Commission, in consultation with the commissioner of higher education and in
21 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, shall by rule waive any provision
22 of Part I of this Chapter that imposes on such student a program requirement or
23 condition that the student cannot comply with or meet when it is determined by the
24 commission that a failure to comply with the requirement or meet the condition,
25 more likely than not, is due solely to a consequence of the declared disaster or
26 emergency.

27 (b) In addition to provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act relative to
28 oversight by the legislature of the adoption of commission rules, the Joint Legislative
29 Committee on the Budget, in accordance with procedures and threshold amounts

1 established by the committee, shall have oversight and approval authority over any
2 rule proposed for adoption pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph that has a
3 significant program or other cost, or both, to the state.

4 C. The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission shall take all
5 administrative action necessary to expedite full implementation of the provisions of
6 this Section. The commission also shall disseminate information to displaced
7 students and others regarding program changes pursuant to the provisions of this
8 Section in the most timely manner possible.

9 §5102. Continuing eligibility for program awards; students displaced by certain
10 natural disasters; waivers and exceptions; limitations

11 A.(1) The legislature finds that due to the effects of natural disasters declared
12 by the governor on August 26, 2005, relative to Hurricane Katrina, and on September
13 20, 2005, relative to Hurricane Rita, it is in the best interest for the education of the
14 people of the state that continuing eligibility requirements established in Part I of this
15 Chapter for awards pursuant to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students be
16 modified as provided by this Section for the 2005-2006 academic year for students
17 displaced as a result of either, or both, of the disasters.

18 (2) For the purposes of this Section, the phrase "a student displaced as a
19 result of either, or both, of the disasters", hereinafter referred to in this Section as a
20 "displaced student", shall mean a person who meets any of the following conditions:

21 (a) The person, on August 26, 2005, was eligible for or had a program award
22 and had a home of record in Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St.
23 Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, or Washington Parish.

24 (b) The person, on September 20, 2005, was eligible for or had a program
25 award and had a home of record in Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron,
26 Iberia, Jefferson Davis, St. Mary, Terrebonne, or Vermilion Parish.

27 (c) The person, on August 26, 2005, was eligible for or had a program award
28 and was enrolled in an eligible Louisiana institution listed below:

29 (i) Delgado Community College

- 1 (ii) Dillard University
- 2 (iii) Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans
- 3 (iv) Louisiana Technical College: Jefferson, Sidney N. Collier, Slidell,
- 4 Sullivan, and West Jefferson campuses
- 5 (v) Loyola University
- 6 (vi) New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
- 7 (vii) Nunez Community College
- 8 (viii) Our Lady of Holy Cross College
- 9 (ix) St. Joseph Seminary College
- 10 (x) Southern University at New Orleans
- 11 (xi) Tulane University
- 12 (xii) University of New Orleans
- 13 (xiii) Xavier University

14 (d) The person, on September 20, 2005, was eligible for or had a program

15 award and was enrolled in McNeese State University or Sowela Technical

16 Community College.

17 (3) For the purposes of Subparagraphs (2)(a) and (b) of this Subsection,

18 "home of record" for a dependent student shall mean the domiciliary address of the

19 student's parent or court-ordered custodian and for an independent student shall mean

20 the domiciliary address of such student.

21 B.(1) Relative to continuing eligibility requirements for a Taylor

22 Opportunity Program for Students award applicable for the 2005-2006 academic year

23 to a student displaced during the 2005-2006 academic year, the Louisiana Student

24 Financial Assistance Commission, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure

25 Act, shall provide by rule as follows:

26 (a)(i) The provisions of R.S. 17:5043 permitting a student qualified for a

27 program award who enrolls as a first-time freshman in an eligible out-of-state

28 college or university to subsequently use the award at an eligible Louisiana college

29 or university shall apply to a displaced student except that the time period of award

1 eligibility shall not be reduced due to the student's attendance at an eligible out-of-
2 state institution during the 2005-2006 academic year.

3 (ii) Relative to a displaced student having a suspended program award due
4 to the student not meeting a requirement relative to having a specified grade point
5 average or making steady academic progress, the respective time periods provided
6 in Part I of this Chapter for the student to meet such requirement or lose program
7 eligibility shall be extended on a one-for-one basis for each semester or other term
8 in which the student does not enroll on a full-time basis in an eligible college or
9 university during the 2005-2006 academic year.

10 (iii) The program award for a displaced student shall not be canceled if the
11 student enrolls during the 2005-2006 academic year in an eligible out-of-state
12 institution subsequent to use of a program award at an eligible Louisiana college or
13 university. Additionally, the periods of time provided in Part I of this Chapter for
14 use by eligible recipients of program awards shall not be reduced for those semesters
15 or terms such displaced student was enrolled in an eligible out-of-state institution
16 during the 2005-2006 academic year and the unused period of time shall remain
17 available to the displaced student for use at an eligible Louisiana college or
18 university.

19 (iv) In addition to the provisions of Part I of this Chapter permitting a
20 recipient to use a TOPS-Tech Award at an eligible Louisiana college or university
21 to pursue skill or occupational training, as defined by the Board of Regents,
22 including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a
23 nonacademic degree, a TOPS-Tech Award also may be used during the 2005-2006
24 academic year by a displaced student to enroll on a full-time basis at an eligible
25 Louisiana college or university granting academic undergraduate degrees to take
26 courses that contribute to the pursuit of a skill or occupation. In such case, the award
27 amount paid by the state on behalf of the student shall be at the Opportunity Award
28 level.

1 (2)(a)(i) Relative to continuing eligibility requirements for a Taylor
2 Opportunity Program for Students award applicable for the 2005-2006 academic year
3 to a student displaced during the 2005-2006 academic year, the Louisiana Student
4 Financial Assistance Commission, in consultation with the commissioner of higher
5 education and in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, shall by rule
6 waive any provision of Part I of this Chapter that imposes on a displaced student a
7 program requirement or condition that such student cannot comply with or meet
8 when it is determined by the commission that a failure to comply with the
9 requirement or meet the condition, more likely than not, is due solely to a
10 consequence of Hurricane Katrina or Rita, or both.

11 (ii) Relative to continuing eligibility requirements for a Taylor Opportunity
12 Program for Students award applicable for the 2005-2006 academic year to any
13 student displaced during the 2005-2006 academic year as a consequence of a disaster
14 or emergency other than Hurricane Katrina or Rita and for which the governor
15 declares a state of emergency to exist, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance
16 Commission, in consultation with the commissioner of higher education and in
17 accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, shall by rule waive any provision
18 of Part I of this Chapter that imposes on such student a program requirement or
19 condition that the student cannot comply with or meet when it is determined by the
20 commission that a failure to comply with the requirement or meet the condition,
21 more likely than not, is due solely to a consequence of the declared disaster or
22 emergency.

23 (b) In addition to provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act relative to
24 oversight by the legislature of the adoption of commission rules, the Joint Legislative
25 Committee on the Budget, in accordance with procedures and threshold amounts
26 established by the committee, shall have oversight and approval authority over any
27 rule proposed for adoption pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph that has a
28 significant program or other cost, or both, to the state.

1 C. The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission shall take all
2 administrative action necessary to expedite full implementation of the provisions of
3 this Section. The commission also shall disseminate information to displaced
4 students and others regarding program changes pursuant to the provisions of this
5 Section in the most timely manner possible.

6 PART V. ANCILLARY AND CONTINUATION PROVISIONS

7 §5121. Effectiveness of Chapter; continuance of certain tuition payments

8 A. Awards pursuant to this Chapter may be made for the first time such that
9 payments would be made beginning with the 1998-1999 school year.

10 B. Students graduating from high school or who have successfully completed
11 at the twelfth grade level a home study program approved by the State Board of
12 Elementary and Secondary Education during a 1996-1997 school year and thereafter
13 may apply for and if otherwise qualified be eligible to receive an Opportunity
14 Award, Performance Award, or Honors Award as provided by this Chapter.

15 C. Students graduating from high school or who have successfully completed
16 at the twelfth grade level a home study program approved by the State Board of
17 Elementary and Secondary Education during the 1997-1998 school year and
18 thereafter may apply for and if otherwise qualified be eligible to receive the TOPS-
19 Tech Award as provided by this Chapter.

20 D. Any requirements of this Chapter that an award recipient must have
21 enrolled in an eligible institution as a first-time freshman shall be waived for students
22 who graduated from high school or successfully completed at the twelfth grade level
23 a home study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
24 Education during the 1996-1997 school year.

25 E.(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 17:5065(D), any student made
26 eligible for an award under this Chapter pursuant to an Act of the 1998 First
27 Extraordinary Session of the Legislature who would not have been eligible under this
28 Chapter prior to such enactment shall receive an award only after all awards to all
29 students who are eligible pursuant to the requirements of this Chapter as they existed

1 prior to any Act of the 1998 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature are fully
2 funded.

3 (2) Should there be insufficient appropriations to fund an award for all
4 students who were made eligible for an award under this Chapter by an Act of the
5 1998 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature, then a reduction shall be made
6 in the awards for such students by application of the procedures provided in R.S.
7 17:5065(D).

8 (3) The provisions of this Subsection shall apply only for the 1998-1999
9 school year.

10 F. All students for whom tuition payments were awarded prior to the 1998-
11 1999 school year and pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 17:3026 as it existed prior
12 to the effective date of this Subsection shall receive their award as an Opportunity
13 Award without the application to the student of any eligibility requirements of that
14 program which exceed the requirements of R.S. 17:3026 as it existed prior to the
15 effective date of this Subsection and without the application of any limitations of that
16 program which would detrimentally affect the student.

17 G. All students for whom tuition payments were awarded prior to the 1998-
18 1999 school year and pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 17:3042.31 through 3042.36
19 as such provisions existed prior to the effective date of this Subsection shall receive
20 their award as a Performance Award without the application to the student of any
21 eligibility requirements of that program which exceed the requirements of R.S.
22 17:3042.31 through 3042.36 as such provisions existed prior to the effective date of
23 this Subsection and without the application of any limitations of that program which
24 would detrimentally affect the student.

25 §5122. Notice to students and parents

26 The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall require that
27 the governing authority of every public secondary school include as a component of
28 a student's Five Year Educational Plan as required by R.S. 17:183.2 comprehensive
29 information relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students and program

1 eligibility requirements for each of the awards. Additionally, the parent or other
2 person responsible for the student's school attendance at the ninth grade level shall
3 be required to return to the school at the start of the student's ninth grade year a
4 signed notice that the program information and eligibility requirements have been
5 reviewed by the parent or other responsible person and by the student and that, for
6 informational and data collection purposes only, expresses the intent of the parent
7 or other responsible person as to whether or not the student will be pursuing the
8 necessary program of studies to be eligible for a Taylor Opportunity Program for
9 Students award.

10 Section 2. Chapter 20-G of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
11 comprised of R.S. 3048.1 through 3048.7, is hereby repealed in their entirety.

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 705 Original

2015 Regular Session

Broadwater

Abstract: Reorganizes the law providing for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) without making any changes to the program.

Present law generally provides a state-funded scholarship program for the payment of higher education tuition for Louisiana highschool students who merit certain grades and achievements. Now called the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), present law was enacted over 25 years ago and over the years has been frequently amended. Proposed law reorganizes, renumbers, and recodifies present law without making any substantive changes to TOPS.

Present law is designated as Chapter 20-G of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes and contains seven individual statutes. The main TOPS provision is R.S. 17:3048.1. Proposed law untangles the many provisions of R.S. 17:3048.1 into 25 separate statutes and organizes all TOPS provisions into five Parts, now all contained in Chapter 50 of Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

(Adds R.S. 17:5001 - 5122)