
DIGEST

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HB 705 Engrossed

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; Repeals R.S. 17:3048.1 - 3048.7)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Were generally technical.
2. Remove certain provisions applicable to students who graduated from high school prior to 2000 from the bill but provide that they remain in effect.
3. Clarify that a 24-month state residency requirement applies to independent students. In present law the requirement clearly applies to dependent students but its applicability to independent students is ambiguous.