

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 414

BY REPRESENTATIVE IVEY

TOPS: Raises grade point average required to maintain eligibility for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity Award

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5041(3) and to enact R.S. 17:5041.1, relative to the Taylor  
3 Opportunity Program for Students; to adjust certain academic requirements for  
4 maintaining eligibility for certain awards; to provide for applicability; and to provide  
5 for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:5041(3) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:5041.1 is  
8 hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §5041. Maintaining eligibility; Honors, Performance, Opportunity

10 To maintain continued state payment of any amount pursuant to an  
11 Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award once enrolled in college a student shall  
12 meet all of the following:

13 \* \* \*

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

16 (a) At least ~~2.30~~ 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale after completion of twenty-  
17 four hours of credit.

18 (b) At least ~~2.50~~ 2.75 calculated on a 4.00 scale after completion of forty-  
19 eight hours of credit.

20 \* \* \*

1        §5041.1. Maintaining eligibility; Honors, Performance, Opportunity; exceptions  
 2                Notwithstanding R.S. 17:5041(3), to maintain continued state payment of an  
 3        amount equal to tuition for an Opportunity Award pursuant to this Chapter once  
 4        enrolled in college, a student who graduated from high school prior to the 2017-2018  
 5        school year shall have a cumulative grade point average of the following as  
 6        evaluated at the end of each academic year:

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

9                (2) At least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale after completion of forty-eight  
 10        hours of credit.

#### 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 414 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Ivey

**Abstract:** Raises minimum grade point average requirements for maintaining eligibility for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity Award.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as a program of merit scholarships for students attending certain postsecondary education institutions who meet specific initial eligibility requirements, including academic requirements pertaining to grade point average (GPA), ACT score, and core curricula. Also provides academic requirements for maintaining eligibility once enrolled in college, including maintaining full-time status and a minimum cumulative GPA.

For students qualifying for an Opportunity Award, present law requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.30 after 24 credit hours of college credit and 2.50 after 48 credit hours. Proposed law increases these minimum GPA requirements from 2.30 to 2.50 and from 2.50 to 2.75. Proposed law is applicable to students graduating from high school during or after the 2017-18 school year.

For students qualifying for a Performance or Honors Award, present law requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 at the end of each academic year. For students qualifying for a TOPS-Tech Award, present law requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50. Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:5041(3); Adds R.S. 17:5041.1)