

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 786

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

TOPS: Provides relative to qualifications for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students scholarships

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5062(C)(4)(d) and to enact R.S. 17:5062(C)(4)(e), relative  
3 to Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to provide for late submission of ACT  
4 and SAT scores for students graduating from high school in 2020; and to provide for  
5 related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:5062(C)(4)(d) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.  
8 17:5062(C)(4)(e) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §5062. Rules, procedures, and guidelines

10 \* \* \*

11 C. The administering agency shall provide the following:

12 \* \* \*

13 (4)

14 \* \* \*

15 (d) ~~When~~ Except as provided in Subparagraph (e) of this Paragraph, when  
16 granting an award to an applicant whose qualifying test score is considered by the  
17 agency pursuant to the provisions of this Paragraph, the agency shall reduce the time  
18 period of eligibility for the award as set forth in R.S. 17:5002 by one semester or an  
19 equivalent number of units at an eligible institution which operates on a schedule  
20 based on units other than semesters.



meet specific academic requirements and other qualifications. Provides for administration of the program by the Bd. of Regents (board). Academic qualifications for TOPS scholarships include minimum ACT or SAT test scores.

Present law requires the board to adopt guidelines for receipt and consideration of late ACT and SAT scores for various specific time periods. Requires the board to reduce by one the number of semesters an applicant who qualifies with a late score pursuant to present law is eligible for the scholarship.

Proposed law requires the board to adopt guidelines for receipt and consideration, for the 2020-2021 academic year or any part thereof, of an applicant's ACT or SAT score that is obtained after April 2020. Authorizes the board to grant a scholarship based on such late-submitted scores only if the applicant meets all of the following:

- (1) The applicant graduated from high school in 2020.
- (2) The applicant was not qualified for any award prior to April 2020.
- (3) The applicant obtained the qualifying test score on the first testing date held in La. after April 2020.

Proposed law provides that the number of semesters of eligibility for a TOPS scholarship shall not be reduced for an applicant who qualifies for a scholarship pursuant to proposed law.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:5062(C)(4)(d); Adds R.S. 17:5062(C)(4)(e))