

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 110

BY REPRESENTATIVE ARMES

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award eligibility, requests the Board of Regents, in consultation with the La. Student Financial Assistance Commission and others, to study issues relative to residency requirements for family members of certain military personnel

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Board of Regents, in consultation with the Louisiana Student  
3 Financial Assistance Commission and certain others, to study the residency  
4 requirements established by state law and commission policy for a student to qualify  
5 for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award when the student has a parent  
6 or court-ordered custodian who is a member of the United States Armed Forces and  
7 who is transferred by the military to Louisiana under permanent change of station  
8 orders and such parent or custodian is not a Louisiana resident; to determine if such  
9 laws and policies are fair, equitable, and consistent with residency requirements  
10 imposed by other states having merit-based postsecondary education scholarship  
11 programs for state residents; and to report in writing on study findings, conclusions,  
12 and recommendations to the legislature as provided by law and to the House  
13 Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than  
14 ninety days prior to the start of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of  
15 Louisiana.

16 WHEREAS, the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, originally known as the  
17 Tuition Opportunity Program for Students and generally referred to as "TOPS", was  
18 established by the legislature in 1997; and

19 WHEREAS, the residency requirements established by state law and policies of the  
20 program's administering agency, the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission,

1 that provide for a student to qualify for a TOPS award when the student has a parent or  
2 court-ordered custodian who is a member of the United States Armed Forces and who is  
3 transferred by the military to Louisiana under permanent change of station orders and such  
4 parent or custodian is not a Louisiana resident have been in place for a number of years and  
5 have remained basically unchanged; and

6 WHEREAS, concerns have been raised to Louisiana legislators by some in military  
7 service that such residency requirements and policies may not be fair, equitable, and  
8 consistent with residency requirements imposed by other states having merit-based  
9 postsecondary education scholarship programs for state residents, and further that  
10 Louisiana's current practices on this issue do not operate in the best interest of military  
11 families living in our state.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents, in consultation  
14 with the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission and others, to study the  
15 residency requirements established by state law and commission policy for a student to  
16 qualify for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award when the student has a parent  
17 or court-ordered custodian who is a member of the United States Armed Forces and who is  
18 transferred by the military to Louisiana under permanent change of station orders and such  
19 parent or custodian is not a Louisiana resident; to determine if such laws and policies are  
20 fair, equitable, and consistent with residency requirements imposed by other states having  
21 merit-based postsecondary education scholarship programs for state residents; and to report  
22 in writing on study findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the legislature as  
23 provided by R.S. 24:771 and 772 and to the House Committee on Education and the Senate  
24 Committee on Education not later than ninety days prior to the start of the 2013 Regular  
25 Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents, in conducting the study,  
27 shall notify appropriate persons in charge of military bases located in Louisiana, state  
28 legislators in whose legislative districts such bases are located, and others as deemed  
29 appropriate by the board of the study and actively solicit their comments, concerns, and

1 recommendations relative to the current residency requirements and any changes needed  
2 thereto.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted  
4 to the presiding officer of the Board of Regents, the commissioner of higher education, the  
5 presiding officer of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission, and the  
6 executive director of the office of student financial assistance.

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#### 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)]

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Armes

HR No. 110

Requests the Board of Regents, in consultation with the La. Student Financial Assistance Commission, to study the residency requirements established by state law and commission policy for a student to qualify for a TOPS award when the student has a parent or court-ordered custodian who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and who is transferred by the military to La. under permanent change of station orders and such parent or custodian is not a La. resident; to determine if such laws and policies are fair, equitable, and consistent with residency requirements imposed by other states having merit-based postsecondary education scholarship programs for state residents; and to report in writing on study findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the legislature as provided by law and to the legislative education committees not later than 90 days prior to the 2013 R.S.

Provides that the Board of Regents, in conducting the study, shall notify appropriate persons in charge of military bases located in La., state legislators in whose legislative districts such bases are located, and others as deemed appropriate by the board of the study and actively solicit their comments, concerns, and recommendations relative to the current residency requirements and any changes needed thereto.