DIGEST

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HB 181 Engrossed   2015 Regular Session   Brown

Abstract: Provides an additional exception to the requirement that TOPS recipients be U.S. citizens by allowing a non-citizen student to receive an award if his parent is a non-citizen who is serving in or was honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), a program of merit scholarships for students attending certain postsecondary education institutions who meet specific academic criteria and other requirements, one of which is that a student be a U.S. citizen; however, provides for exceptions by deeming that the following students who are not U.S. citizens satisfy such citizenship requirement:

(1)   Students who are eligible to apply for citizenship do so within 60 days of turning 18 and obtain it within one year of the application date.

(2)   Students who are permanent residents (as defined by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service) and are eligible to apply for citizenship.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that the following non-citizen students also satisfy the present law citizenship requirement: students who have a non-citizen parent who is serving or has been honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces. Applicable to students who graduate from high school in the 2018-2019 school year and thereafter.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(a)(iii)(gg))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

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

    1.   Remove proposed law provisions that would have eliminated present law exceptions to the requirement that TOPS recipients be U.S. citizens.