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.			

Page 1 of 3

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1	(e) Guidelines and procedures for receipt and consideration, for the 2020-
2	2021 academic year or any part thereof, of an applicant's ACT or SAT score that is
3	obtained after April 2020. The agency may grant an award for the 2020-2021
4	academic year to an applicant who obtained a qualifying ACT or SAT score after
5	April 2020 only if all of the following conditions are met: the applicant graduated
6	from high school in 2020, the applicant was not qualified for any award prior to
7	April 2020, and the applicant obtained a qualifying test score on the first testing date
8	for the test he took held in Louisiana after April 2020. The agency shall not reduce
9	the time period of eligibility for the award, as set forth in R.S. 17:5002, of an
10	applicant who qualifies for an award pursuant to authority granted by this
11	Subparagraph.
12	* * *
12 13	* * * Section 2. It is the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana in enacting R.S.
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13 14	Section 2. It is the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana in enacting R.S. $17:5062(C)(4)(e)$ as provided in this Act that students graduating from high school in 2020
13 14 15	Section 2. It is the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana in enacting R.S. $17:5062(C)(4)(e)$ as provided in this Act that students graduating from high school in 2020 should not suffer any detrimental effects to their eligibility for a Taylor Opportunity Program
13 14 15 16	Section 2. It is the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana in enacting R.S. $17:5062(C)(4)(e)$ as provided in this Act that students graduating from high school in 2020 should not suffer any detrimental effects to their eligibility for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students scholarship solely because of the cancellation or rescheduling of test dates in
13 14 15 16 17	Section 2. It is the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana in enacting R.S. 17:5062(C)(4)(e) as provided in this Act that students graduating from high school in 2020 should not suffer any detrimental effects to their eligibility for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students scholarship solely because of the cancellation or rescheduling of test dates in 2020. The Board of Regents shall implement R.S. 17:5062(C)(4)(e) to achieve this intent.
 13 14 15 16 17 18 	Section 2. It is the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana in enacting R.S. 17:5062(C)(4)(e) as provided in this Act that students graduating from high school in 2020 should not suffer any detrimental effects to their eligibility for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students scholarship solely because of the cancellation or rescheduling of test dates in 2020. The Board of Regents shall implement R.S. 17:5062(C)(4)(e) to achieve this intent. Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 	Section 2. It is the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana in enacting R.S. 17:5062(C)(4)(e) as provided in this Act that students graduating from high school in 2020 should not suffer any detrimental effects to their eligibility for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students scholarship solely because of the cancellation or rescheduling of test dates in 2020. The Board of Regents shall implement R.S. 17:5062(C)(4)(e) to achieve this intent. Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

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 786 Original	2020 Regular Session	Garofalo
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Abstract: Extends the deadline for submission of ACT or SAT scores in order to qualify for a TOPS scholarship for students graduating from high school in 2020.

<u>Present law</u> provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as a program of merit scholarships for students attending certain postsecondary education institutions who

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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.

<u>Present law</u> 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 <u>present law</u> is eligible for the scholarship.

<u>Proposed law</u> 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.

<u>Proposed law</u> 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 <u>proposed</u> <u>law</u>.

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))