The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

DIGEST

SB 178 Original | 2022 Regular Session | Fields

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students and specifies initial and continuing eligibility requirements.

Proposed law authorizes the administering agency to waive present law relative to TOPS initial eligibility requirements that a student cannot comply with if it determines that failure to comply is, more likely than not, due solely to the effects of Hurricane Ida.

Proposed law, applicable to the 2021-2022 academic year, modifies continuing eligibility requirements for a TOPS award for certain students as follows:

(1) Waives present law requirements for steady academic progress and a certain cumulative GPA.

(2) Present law provides for possible reinstatement of an award suspended because of GPA or failure to make steady academic progress. Proposed law extends the time a student has to recover an award by one semester for each semester he is unable to enroll or complete.

(3) Waives present law providing for the reduction of eligibility by a semester for each semester that a student is enrolled in an out-of-state college or university.

Proposed law is applicable only to a person who, on Aug. 27, 2021, was eligible for or had a program award and met one of the following criteria:

(1) He had a home of record in an affected parish.

(2) He was enrolled in an eligible college or university in an affected parish.

(3) Was a member of the Louisiana National Guard called to active duty to assist in the preparation for and response to Hurricane Ida.

Proposed law defines "affected parish" as Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa, or Terrebone.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:5105)