

2024 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 443

BY SENATOR JACKSON-ANDREWS

TOPS. Mandates residency requirements for TOPS award. (gov sig)

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AN ACT

To enact R.S. 17:5070, relative to the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS); to provide residency requirements post graduation; to provide an effective date; to provide for implementation; to provide relative to reporting; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:5070 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

**§5070. Post graduation requirements; implementation; applicability**

**A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any student qualifying for an initial program award of the Opportunity, Performance, Honors, or TOPS-Tech Award for the 2024-2025 award year, and graduates from an eligible college or university in this state, shall reside and be employed in this state for not less than thirty-six months immediately following graduation. If a student fails to reside and be employed in this state immediately following graduation, the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance shall be responsible for recouping not more than one-third of the total amount paid out by the TOPS award for each year the student is not a resident nor is**

1 employed in this state.

2 B.(1) The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, in  
3 conjunction with the Board of Regents, shall promulgate all necessary rules and  
4 regulations to implement the provisions of this Section. Such rules and  
5 regulations shall, at a minimum, provide for compliance, enforcement, and  
6 penalties.

7 (2) The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, in conjunction  
8 with the Board of Regents, shall provide by rule the following:

9 (a) A mechanism for informing all students of the requirements of this  
10 Section.

11 (b) A notification procedure for any student who fails to meet the  
12 requirements of the provisions of this Section.

13 (c) Guidelines and procedures for payment options.

14 C. The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, in conjunction  
15 with the Board of Regents, shall submit a written report of the information  
16 required by this Section for the preceding academic year to the Senate  
17 Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education.

18 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
19 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
20 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
21 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
22 effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Frances Aucoin.

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DIGEST

SB 443 Original                      2024 Regular Session                      Jackson-Andrews

Proposed law requires a student remain a resident of Louisiana and be employed in the state for 36 months after the student's graduation from a college or university.

Proposed law provides that the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance is responsible for recouping not more than 1/3 of the total amount paid out by TOPS award for each year the student does not reside in Louisiana.

Proposed law provides that the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, in conjunction with the Board of Regents, will promulgate rules and regulations needed to provide for compliance, enforcement, and penalties.

Proposed law requires the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, in conjunction with the Board of Regents, to provide a mechanism for informing students of the requirements of the proposed law, a notification procedure for students who fail to meet the requirements, and guidelines and procedures for payment options.

Proposed law requires the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance to submit a written report to the Senate and House Committees on Education containing information required by proposed law for the preceding academic year.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:5070)