

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 359 (HB 378)

2025 Regular Session

Wilder

Existing law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as a merit scholarship program for students meeting specific initial eligibility requirements, including the following academic requirements, which vary depending on the award level:

- (1) Successful completion of a specific high school core curriculum.
- (2) Attaining a minimum grade point average on such curriculum.
- (3) Attaining a minimum ACT score.

Prior law exempted a student who completed a State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education-approved home study program from requirements provided in (1) and (2) above but required him to score at least two points higher than the minimum ACT score required by existing law to qualify for a TOPS-Tech or Opportunity Award and one point higher for a Performance or Honors Award (R.S. 17:5029(B)(3)(b)(ii) and (iii)). New law (R.S. 17:5029(B)(3)(a)) removes this requirement, applicable to those initially qualifying for the 2025-2026 award year and thereafter, which would subject such a student to the following existing law minimum ACT score requirements: TOPS-Tech, 17; Opportunity, 20; Performance, 23; and Honors, 27.

Effective August 1, 2025.

(Amends R.S. 17:5029(B)(2) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii) and (iii))