2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 787

BY REPRESENTATIVE MCMAKIN

CURRICULA: Removes successful completion of a computer science course as a requirement for TOPS qualification

1   AN ACT

2   To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5026(A)(5) and to repeal R.S. 17:5025(8), 5025.7, and

3   5026(F), relative to curricula; to remove Computer Science as a requirement for

4   qualification for TOPS awards; to provide for applicability; and to provide for related

5   matters.

6   Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7   Section 1. R.S. 17:5026(A)(5) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

8   §5026. High school core curriculum requirements; TOPS-Tech

9   A. To be eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter, the

10   student shall have successfully completed the core curriculum requirements of R.S.

11   17:5025 or the core curriculum defined as follows:

12   *   *   *

13   (5) At least nine credits in Jump Start course sequences, workplace

14   experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series

15   of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based

16   learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This

17   shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses

18   related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses,

19   including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are

20   appropriate for the career major. One of these credits shall be Computer Science,

1   ~~unless Computer Science is taken to fulfill one credit as provided in Paragraph (2)~~

2   ~~or (3) of this Subsection.~~

3   *   *   *

4   Section 2. R.S. 17:5025(8), 5025.7, and 5026(F) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

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 787 Original   2026 Regular Session   McMakin

Abstract: Removes completion of a Computer Science course as a requirement for qualification for TOPS.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), a merit scholarship program for students who meet certain academic criteria in high school and other requirements. Provides for five award levels based on high school academic criteria, including completion of a specific core curriculum, a minimum GPA on that core curriculum, and a minimum ACT score: TOPS-Tech, Opportunity, Performance, Honors, and Excellence.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires completion of a one unit Computer Science course to quality for any level of TOPS award, starting with students who graduate during the 2030-2031 school year.

Proposed law removes this requirement from the core curriculum.

(Amends R.S. 17:5025(intro. para.) and 5026(A)(5); Repeals R.S. 17:5025(8), 5025.7, and 5026(F))