

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 710

BY REPRESENTATIVE GREENE

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Permits use of TOPS awards at eligible La. institutions by otherwise qualified students who graduated from out-of-state colleges or universities

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3048.1(Y), relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to
3 provide for the use of awards for postgraduate education at eligible Louisiana
4 institutions by otherwise qualified students who enroll in and graduate from an out-
5 of-state college or university; to provide conditions and limitations; to provide for
6 award amounts; to provide an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Reward of Tuition to
9 Return Now to Louisiana (RTRN-LA) Act".

10 Section 2. R.S. 17:3048.1(Y) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

12 * * *

13 Y.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of this Chapter to the contrary, an
14 otherwise qualified student who meets each of the following conditions and who first
15 enrolls as a full-time student in an out-of-state college or university and remains in
16 and graduates from an out-of-state college or university may use the program award
17 provided for by this Section to pursue a postgraduate academic degree in a field of
18 study that qualifies the student for employment after graduation in a four or five star
19 job, on a statewide basis, as defined by the Louisiana Workforce Commission, at an

1 eligible institution provided that the student continues to meet all academic and other
2 requirements provided by this Section and by rule of the administering agency for
3 continued receipt of the award as an undergraduate except as such requirements,
4 including requirements provided by this Section for undergraduate students, may be
5 modified by the administering agency as necessary to apply such requirements to
6 postgraduate study:

7 (a) The student has been determined by the administering agency to meet the
8 initial eligibility requirements established by this Section for an Opportunity,
9 Performance, or Honors award.

10 (b) The student graduated from an out-of-state college or university and the
11 out-of-state college or university is accredited by a regional accrediting organization
12 recognized by the United States Department of Education.

13 (c) While enrolled in such an out-of-state college or university, the student
14 met all requirements of this Section that would have been applicable to the student
15 for continuation of the initial award if the student had enrolled in an eligible college
16 or university in Louisiana.

17 (d) The student graduated from high school during the 2008-2009 school
18 year or thereafter.

19 (2) The amount of the award relative to tuition as provided for in this
20 Subsection shall not exceed the amounts determined by the administering agency to
21 equal the tuition charged for the postgraduate study or the amount charged for
22 undergraduate full-time enrollment at the highest cost public college university in the
23 state, whichever amount is less.

24 (3) A student may receive the award under this Subsection for the number
25 of semesters authorized by Subsection H of this Section, provided that the number
26 of semesters shall be reduced as required by Subsection C of this Section.

27 (4) A student shall remain eligible to receive the award pursuant to this
28 Subsection if, at any time after he enrolls in but before he completes the postgraduate
29 degree program that qualifies him for employment in a four or five star job as

1 specified in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection, the job is no longer defined as a four
2 or five star job.

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

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)]

Greene

HB No. 710

Abstract: Permits use of TOPS awards to pursue certain postgraduate academic degrees at eligible La. institutions by otherwise qualified students who enroll as first-time students in and graduate from out-of-state colleges or universities.

Proposed law, relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), adds that notwithstanding present law to the contrary, an otherwise qualified student who meets each of the following conditions and who first enrolls as a full-time student in an out-of-state college or university and remains in and graduates from an out-of-state college or university may use the program award to pursue a postgraduate academic degree in a field of study that qualifies the student for employment in a four or five star job as defined by the La. Workforce Commission at an eligible institution if the student continues to meet all academic and other requirements for continued receipt of the award as an undergraduate except as such requirements are modified by the administering agency to apply to postgraduate study:

- (1) The student meets the initial eligibility requirements for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors award.
- (2) The student graduated from an out-of-state college or university accredited by a regional accrediting organization recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education.
- (3) While enrolled in such an out-of-state college or university, the student met all requirements that would have been applicable to such student for continuation of the initial award if the student had enrolled in an eligible La. college or university.
- (4) The student graduated from high school during the 2008-2009 school year or thereafter.

Provides that the amount of the tuition award shall not exceed the amounts determined by the administering agency to equal the tuition charged for the postgraduate study or for undergraduate full-time enrollment charged by the highest cost public college university in the state, whichever is less. Permits the student to receive the award for the number of semesters authorized by present law (no more than eight semesters or its equivalent), as reduced pursuant to present law. Provides that the student shall remain eligible to receive

the award if, during his enrollment in the postgraduate degree program, the four or five star job is no longer defined as such.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:3048.1(Y))