
DIGEST

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Kleckley

HB No. 1023

Abstract: Relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, provides relative to award amounts, payment of awards, eligibility requirements for awards.

Present law provides relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS). Provides with respect to certain qualifications for participation in the program and provides for scholarship awards and payments of awards.

Present law relative to eligibility requirements to receive a TOPS Opportunity award, requires that students have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 and an American College Test (ACT) score equal to the state's average composite score, but never less than 20. Proposed law, effective for students graduating in the 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 school years, increases requisite grade point average to 2.75 and ACT score to 22 for such an award and for students graduating in the 2020-2021 school year and thereafter, increases requisite grade point average to 3.00 and ACT score to 24 for such an award.

Present law provides for payment at the beginning of the academic period directly to the educational institution on behalf of the student for a TOPS Opportunity award. Provides that Opportunity award recipients enrolled in a public institution or vocational program receive full tuition and Opportunity award recipients enrolled in an independent institution or vocational program receive an amount equal to the weighted average of amounts paid by TOPS for students attending public institutional or vocational schools, as applicable.

Proposed law establishes a new payment schedule and amount for such award.

Effective July 1, 2014.

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(b)(i), (2), and (5)(b)(i), and (H)(3)(c); Adds R.S. 17:3048.1(Y))