
DIGEST

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Harrison

HB No. 1153

Abstract: Relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, provides relative to award amounts and eligibility requirements for the Opportunity Award.

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 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 school year and thereafter, increases the requisite ACT to a minimum of 22; however, eliminates the need for a minimum ACT score if the student's GPA is 3.0 or greater.

Present law 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 retains present law for those students enrolling as a first-time freshman on or before June 20, 2018, but thereafter, provides for an award equal to a percentage of tuition as follows: 80% for first two semesters; 90% for third and fourth semesters; 100% for fifth and sixth semesters; and 120% for seventh and eighth semesters.

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(b)(i), (2), (4)(intro. para.), and (5)(b)(i))