

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 462

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

STUDENTS: Provides relative to eligibility requirements for receipt of certain TOPS awards and a career diploma

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(d), 3048.1(B)(2)(introductory paragraph),  
3 (c)(introductory paragraph), (d), (e), and (f), and R.S. 17:3048.5(D)(4) and to enact  
4 R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(2)(g), relative to student eligibility for certain programs; to align  
5 the high school curriculum requirements for eligibility for a TOPS-Tech award and  
6 a career diploma; to provide relative to certain testing requirements for eligibility for  
7 a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for  
8 related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(d), 3048.1(B)(2)(introductory paragraph),  
11 (c)(introductory paragraph), (d), (e), and (f), and R.S. 17:3048.5(D)(4) are hereby amended  
12 and reenacted and R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(2)(g) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §183.3. Career major; description; curriculum and graduation requirements

14 \* \* \*

15 B.

16 \* \* \*

17 (2) The course requirements for the career major shall consist of the  
18 following:

19 \* \* \*

1 (d) At least two social studies credits, including one credit from among the  
 2 following: U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History; ~~one-half~~ one credit  
 3 from among the following: Civics, Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics:  
 4 Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States; ~~and one-half~~  
 5 ~~credit from among the following: Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP~~  
 6 ~~Microeconomics. One credit of Civics may be substituted for any two of the one-~~  
 7 ~~half credit courses specified in this Subparagraph.~~

8 \* \* \*

9 §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

10 \* \* \*

11 B.

12 \* \* \*

13 (2) As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, for  
 14 students graduating from high school through the 1999-2000 school year the state  
 15 shall award an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the actual  
 16 cost of tuition of any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in a Louisiana public  
 17 postsecondary institution to pursue skill or occupational training, including a  
 18 vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic  
 19 undergraduate degree, and who meets the following qualifications and all other  
 20 applicable qualifications of this Chapter and for students graduating from high  
 21 school during the 2000-2001 school year and thereafter the state shall award an  
 22 amount determined by the administering agency in accordance with the provisions  
 23 of Subparagraph ~~(f)~~ (g) of this Paragraph for any student who enrolls on a full-time  
 24 basis in an eligible college or university as defined in Subsection A of this Section  
 25 to pursue skill or occupational training as defined by the Board of Regents, including  
 26 a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic  
 27 undergraduate degree, and who meets the following qualifications and all other  
 28 applicable qualifications of this Chapter:

29 \* \* \*

1           (c) ~~Except~~ Through the 2016-2017 school year, except as otherwise provided  
2           by this Section, has successfully completed a core curriculum, and meets standards  
3           for admission to the desired eligible college or university. The core curriculum  
4           specified in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph shall be effective only for high  
5           school graduates through the 2001-2002 school year; thereafter, a student shall meet  
6           the core curriculum requirements as specified in this Subparagraph. Except as  
7           otherwise provided by this Section, a student may qualify for a TOPS-Tech Award  
8           by meeting the core curriculum requirements of Subparagraph (A)(1)(e) or (f) of this  
9           Section or the core curriculum defined as follows:

\*       \*       \*

11           (d) Except as otherwise provided by this Section, has successfully completed  
12           a core curriculum. The core curriculum specified in Subparagraph (c) of this  
13           Paragraph shall be effective for high school graduates from the 2002-2003 school  
14           year through the 2016-2017 school year. Except as otherwise provided by this  
15           Section, a student may qualify for a TOPS-Tech Award by meeting the core  
16           curriculum requirements of Subparagraph (A)(1)(e) or (f) of this Section or the core  
17           curriculum defined as follows:

18           (i) English - Four Units

19           (aa) English I.

20           (bb) English II.

21           (cc) Choose two or more from the following: English III, English IV, AP or  
22           IB English courses, Business English, Technical Writing, or comparable Louisiana  
23           Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as approved by the  
24           State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

25           (ii) Math - Four Units

26           (aa) Algebra I (one unit); or both Algebra I, Part 1 and Algebra I, Part 2; or  
27           an applied or hybrid algebra course.

28           (bb) Choose three or more from the following: Geometry, Algebra II, Math  
29           Essentials, Financial Literacy, Business Math, Algebra III, Advanced Math -

1 Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-calculus, or comparable  
2 Louisiana Technical College courses offered by Jump Start regional teams as  
3 approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated  
4 Mathematics I, II, and III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra  
5 II, and shall equal three mathematics credits.

6 (iii) Science - Two Units

7 (aa) Biology.

8 (bb) One additional unit from the following: Chemistry I, Earth Science,  
9 Environmental Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (both for one unit),  
10 Physical Science, or AP or IB science courses.

11 (iv) Social Studies - Two Units

12 (aa) One unit from the following: U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S.  
13 History.

14 (bb) One unit from the following: Civics, Government, AP U.S.  
15 Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United  
16 States.

17 (v) At least nine credits in Jump Start course sequences, workplace  
18 experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a regionally designed series  
19 of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based  
20 learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. This  
21 shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the credential, courses  
22 related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start, and other courses,  
23 including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team determines are  
24 appropriate for the career major.

25 ~~(d)~~ (e) Has no criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations  
26 and, if the student has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated  
27 from such service, has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under  
28 honorable conditions.

1           ~~(e)~~ (f) Students funded through the Louisiana minimum foundation program  
 2           and who are attending any high school in an adjoining state pursuant to an agreement  
 3           in effect as of June 4, 1994, between the parish school system and the local  
 4           governing authority of the school in the adjoining state shall be considered as having  
 5           graduated from a state-approved nonpublic high school for the purpose of qualifying  
 6           under this Section.

7           ~~(f)~~ (g)(i) For any student attending an eligible public college or university  
 8           that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level or  
 9           higher, the amount shall equal the actual cost of tuition.

10          (ii) For any student attending an eligible college or university other than as  
 11          provided for in Item (i) of this Subparagraph, the amount shall equal the weighted  
 12          average of amounts paid pursuant to Item (i) of this Subparagraph.

\* \* \*

14          §3048.5. TOPS-Tech Early Start Award; purpose; eligibility; award amounts  
 15          limitations; administration; implementation; reports

\* \* \*

17          D. To be eligible for an initial TOPS-Tech Early Start Award, a student shall  
 18          meet each of the following conditions and comply with other applicable provisions  
 19          of this Section and administering agency rules:

\* \* \*

21          (4) Score at least fifteen on the English subsection and fifteen on the  
 22          mathematics subsection of the ACT PLAN assessment or a successor assessment  
 23          administered as part of Louisiana's Educational Planning and Assessment System or  
 24          the ACT or an equivalent concordant value of the SAT or have attained a silver level  
 25          score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system.

\* \* \*

## 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 462 Original

2015 Regular Session

Cox

**Abstract:** Aligns the high school curriculum requirements for eligibility for a TOPS-Tech award and requirements for a career diploma. Provides relative to certain testing requirements to receive a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award.

Present law provides curriculum requirements for high school career major programs for receipt of a career diploma by students who successfully complete such requirements. Requires students to complete at least two social studies credits and specifies course choices including Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics. Further requires the completion of a regionally designed series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. Proposed law changes the social studies curriculum requirements to include Civics among the specified course choices and deletes Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics as possible choices. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides for a TOPS-Tech award for students who enroll in a La. public postsecondary institution to pursue skill or occupational training, including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree. Provides curriculum requirements for eligibility for such an award. Proposed law retains present law curriculum requirements for students graduating from high school through the 2016-2017 school year and changes the curriculum requirements for students graduating from high school in 2017-2018 and thereafter to align the curriculum in all areas with that required for receipt of a career diploma as specified in present law and proposed law. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law, relative to a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award, provides that such award may be used by students in the 11th and 12th grades for any technical or applied course leading to an Industry-Based Certification, a Certificate of Applied Science, and a Certificate of Technical Sciences offered at a La. public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution or by any La. training provider recognized by the La. Workforce Commission and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as provided in present law if such certification is approved by the Workforce Investment Council. Provides eligibility requirements for receipt of the award including scoring at least 15 on the English subsection and 15 on the mathematics subsection of the ACT PLAN assessment. Proposed law adds that a student also may be eligible if he attains such scores on the ACT or an equivalent concordant value of the SAT or attains a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system. Proposed law otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:183.3(B)(2)(d), 3048.1(B)(2)(intro. para.), (c)(intro. para.), (d), (e), and (f), and R.S. 17:3048.5(D)(4); Adds R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(2)(g))