

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 181

BY REPRESENTATIVE BROWN

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

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Provides relative to student citizenship requirements for TOPS eligibility purposes

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(a)(iii)(gg), relative to receipt of awards from the Louisiana
3 Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to provide relative to citizenship
4 requirements for receipt of such award; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(a)(iii)(gg) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

8 A.(1) As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, the
9 state shall financially assist any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in a public
10 college or university in this state or a regionally accredited independent college or
11 university in the state that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent
12 Colleges and Universities, hereafter in this Chapter referred to collectively as
13 "eligible colleges or universities", to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or,
14 as provided by this Subsection, skill or occupational training as defined by the
15 administering agency including a vocational or technical education certificate or
16 diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the
17 qualifications of Subparagraph (b), (c), or (d) of this Paragraph and all of the
18 applicable following qualifications:

1 (a)

2 * * *

3 (iii)

4 * * *

5 (gg) For a student graduating from high school during the 2018-2019 school
6 year and thereafter, a student who is not a citizen of the United States but who is the
7 child of a non-United States citizen who is either serving in any branch of the United
8 States armed forces or has been honorably discharged from any branch of the United
9 States armed forces shall be deemed to satisfy the citizenship requirement of this
10 Item.

11 * * *

12 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
13 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
14 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
15 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
16 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)]

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Abstract: Provides an additional exception to the requirement that TOPS recipients be U.S. citizens by allowing a non-citizen student to receive an award if his parent is a non-citizen who is serving in or was honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), a program of merit scholarships for students attending certain postsecondary education institutions who meet specific academic criteria and other requirements, one of which is that a student be a U.S. citizen; however, provides for exceptions by deeming that the following students who are not U.S. citizens satisfy such citizenship requirement:

- (1) Students who are eligible to apply for citizenship do so within 60 days of turning 18 and obtain it within one year of the application date.
- (2) Students who are permanent residents (as defined by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service) and are eligible to apply for citizenship.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that the following non-citizen students also satisfy the present law citizenship requirement: students who have a non-citizen parent who is serving or has been honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces. Applicable to students who graduate from high school in the 2018-2019 school year and thereafter.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(a)(iii)(gg))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Remove proposed law provisions that would have eliminated present law exceptions to the requirement that TOPS recipients be U.S. citizens.