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## DIGEST

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HB 1166 Original

2016 Regular Session

Nancy Landry

**Abstract:** Instead of eliminating some students as award recipients if the legislature insufficiently funds the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), allows all recipients to retain their awards but provides for cutting all awards on a pro rata basis.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as a program of merit scholarships for students attending certain postsecondary education institutions who meet specific requirements. Requires the legislature annually to appropriate funds sufficient to cover the costs of TOPS awards.

Present law provides, if the legislature appropriates insufficient money to fund all awards, for reducing the number of students receiving awards pursuant to a procedure adopted by the administering agency; requires that such procedure provide for eliminating students based on ACT score and the ability of families to pay tuition. Proposed law, instead of providing for such elimination, requires the reduction of award amounts on a pro rata basis. Authorizes public postsecondary education institutions to charge a student the difference between a reduced award amount and the amount of tuition at the institution.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:5065(D))