

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 541

BY REPRESENTATIVE STEVE CARTER

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

STUDENTS: Provides relative to early graduation from high school including incentives for students and savings redirected for certain other educational purposes

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:2925(A)(2) and to enact R.S. 17:407.30 and 1609, relative to
3 students; to require students' Individual Graduation Plans to include plans on how
4 to graduate from high school by the end of grade eleven; to provide funding for other
5 educational purposes using the savings to the state resulting from such early
6 graduation; to provide for scholarships for such students and to provide for
7 administration and funding for such scholarships; to provide for funding for the
8 Child Care Assistance Program; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:2925(A)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:407.30
11 and 1609 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §407.30. Child Care Assistance Program; funding

13 A.(1) The legislature finds that savings to the state can be achieved as a
14 result of students graduating from high school in fewer than four years since such
15 students would no longer be counted in the minimum foundation program formula
16 and that such savings should be redirected for other educational purposes.

17 (2) The legislature further finds that one such purpose should be to provide
18 for more funding for the Child Care Assistance Program.

19 B. The state Department of Education shall receive from the state an amount
20 equal to forty-nine percent of the base per pupil amount contained in the minimum

1 foundation program formula for each student who graduates from a public high school
2 in three years, and the department shall use such funds in administering the Child
3 Care Assistance Program pursuant to rules promulgated by the State Board of
4 Elementary and Secondary Education in accordance with the Administrative
5 Procedure Act.

6 C. The provisions of this Section shall be subject to the appropriation of
7 funds by the legislature for such purpose.

8 * * *

9 §1609. Early College Scholarship

10 A.(1) The legislature finds that savings to the state can be achieved as a
11 result of students graduating from high school in fewer than four years since such
12 students would no longer be counted in the minimum foundation program formula
13 and that such savings should be redirected for other educational purposes.

14 (2) The legislature further finds that one such purpose should be to provide
15 high school students with an incentive to graduate early by providing scholarships
16 to those students to attend a public postsecondary education institution in this state.

17 B. The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, pursuant to rules
18 adopted by the Board of Regents in accordance with the Administrative Procedure
19 Act, shall award an "Early College Scholarship" to a student who completes all high
20 school graduation requirements and receives a high school diploma by the end of
21 grade eleven and enrolls in a Louisiana public postsecondary education institution
22 within one year of graduating. The value of the scholarship shall be equal to forty-
23 nine percent of the base per pupil amount contained in the minimum foundation
24 program formula, excluding any weights. Scholarship payments shall be made to the
25 public postsecondary education institution upon evidence of the student's enrollment.
26 The scholarship shall be a one-time scholarship and shall not be renewed.

27 C. The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance shall receive an
28 amount equal to two percent of the base per pupil amount contained in the minimum

1 foundation program formula for each such student to defray the costs of
2 administering the scholarship program.

3 D. Implementation of this Section shall be subject to the appropriation of
4 funds by the legislature for such purpose.

5 * * *

6 §2925. Individual graduation plans

7 A.

8 * * *

9 (2)(a) By the end of the eighth grade, each student's Individual Graduation
10 Plan, or the student's Individualized Education Plan, if applicable, shall list the
11 required core courses to be taken through the tenth grade and shall identify the
12 courses to be taken in the first year of high school. Students who fail to meet the
13 standard for promotion to the ninth grade, pursuant to policies adopted by the State
14 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall have any necessary remedial
15 courses included in their Individual Graduation Plan. The plan shall be reviewed
16 annually and updated as necessary to identify the courses to be taken each year until
17 all required core courses are completed.

18 (b) By the end of the eighth grade, each student's Individual Graduation Plan
19 shall include a plan for how the student can complete high school graduation
20 requirements by the end of grade eleven and qualify for a scholarship as provided in
21 R.S. 17:1609 to attend a Louisiana public postsecondary education institution. The
22 school counselor shall be responsible for ensuring that the requirements of this
23 Subparagraph are met and that such requirements are in accordance with the early
24 high school graduation policy adopted by the State Board of Elementary and
25 Secondary Education and implemented by the city, parish, or other local public
26 school board as required in R.S. 17:7(30).

27 * * *

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 541 Original

2017 Regular Session

Steve Carter

Abstract: Require students' Individual Graduation Plans (IGP) to include plans on how to graduate early from high school and redirects savings as a result of such early graduation to fund scholarships for such students and for administration of the Child Care Assistance Program.

Present law relative to Individual Graduation Plans, requires students in the 8th grade to develop a plan to explore educational and career possibilities and to make appropriate decisions as part of an overall career plan. Permits students to choose the high school curriculum framework and related graduation requirements that best meet their postsecondary goals. Provides that each student's plan shall include the recommended sequence of courses needed for successful completion of his chosen career major and shall be reviewed annually and updated as needed. Requires that a student's plan be signed by the student and his parent or other legal guardian.

Proposed law adds a requirement that by the end of the 8th grade, each student's IGP include a plan for how the student can complete high school by the end of 11th grade and qualify for an "Early College Scholarship" as provided in proposed law. Requires school counselors to ensure that the IGP includes these early graduation plans and that such plans comply with present law requirements that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopt an early high school graduation policy and local public school boards implement such policy. Otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law provides for savings resulting from early high school graduates to be redirected for the following purposes:

- (1) To provide an "Early College Scholarship" to a student who completes all high school graduation requirements and receives a high school diploma by the end of 11th grade and enrolls in a La. public postsecondary education institution within one year of graduating. Provides for scholarship awards to be made by the La. Office of Student Financial Assistance, pursuant to rules adopted by the Bd. of Regents. Provides that the scholarship value shall be equal to 49% of the base per pupil amount contained in the minimum foundation program (MFP) formula, excluding any weights and payments shall be made to the public postsecondary education institution upon evidence of the student's enrollment. Provides that the scholarship is a one-time scholarship and prohibits scholarship renewal. Further provides that the Office of Student Financial Assistance shall receive an amount equal to 2% of the base per pupil amount contained in the MFP formula to defray the costs of administering the scholarship program. Provides that proposed law is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature.
- (2) To provide for more funding for the Child Care Assistance Program administered by the state Dept. of Education. Provides that the department shall receive an amount equal to 49% of the base per pupil amount contained in the MFP formula per early-graduating high school student to administer the Child Care Assistance Program. Provides that proposed law is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature.

(Amends R.S. 17:2925(A)(2); Adds R.S. 17:407.30 and 1609)