The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

## DIGEST 2018 Regular Session

Morrish

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains <u>present law</u>. <u>Proposed law</u> additionally provides for two new awards called the TOPS-Tech 2Plus2 Award and the TOPS Second Chance award.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides a recipient of a TOPS-Tech 2Plus2 Award must have met the criteria of the TOPS-Tech award and the following criteria:

- (1) Graduated from high school during or after the 2021-2022 school year.
- (2) Accepted his TOPS-Tech Award.

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- (3) Earned an academic associate's degree in an eligible TOPS-Tech program within two academic years of accepting the award and enrolling in an eligible institution.
- (4) Maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.20 each academic year.
- (5) Enroll in a baccalaureate program at a TOPS eligible four-year institution, not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters and sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date the student graduated from the eligible academic associate's degree program.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that a TOPS Second Chance Award recipient must have a 2.50 GPA based on the TOPS Opportunity, Performance or Honors high school core curriculum, scored at least a 17 on the ACT test and meet the following criteria:

- (1) Graduated from high school during or after the 2021-2022 school year.
- (2) Enrolled in an eligible four-year institution not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters and sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high school.
- (3) Remained continuously enrolled in an eligible four-year institution and earned at least sixty hours of academic credit within two consecutive academic years of enrolling in an eligible institution.
- (4) Maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.20 each academic year.

(5) Remain enrolled in a baccalaureate program at a TOPS eligible four-year institution.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that to maintain eligibility for either award, a student must:

- (1) Make steady academic progress toward a degree as defined by the administering agency.
- (2) Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 on a 4.00 scale.
- (3) Maintain continuous enrollment.
- (4) Have no criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations.
- (5) If the student has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated from such service, has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:5002(E)(2), 5024(B)(1)(d), 5025(intro para), 5026(A)(intro para); adds R.S. 17:5002(H), 5024(A)(1)(e) and (B)(1)(e), 5026.1, and 5042.1)