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## DIGEST

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HB 414 Engrossed

2018 Regular Session

Ivey

**Abstract:** Raises minimum grade point average requirements for maintaining eligibility for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity Award.

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 initial eligibility requirements, including academic requirements pertaining to grade point average (GPA), ACT score, and core curricula. Also provides academic requirements for maintaining eligibility once enrolled in college, including maintaining full-time status and a minimum cumulative GPA.

For students qualifying for an Opportunity Award, present law requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.30 after 24 credit hours of college credit and 2.50 after 48 credit hours. Proposed law increases these minimum GPA requirements from 2.30 to 2.50 and from 2.50 to 2.75. Proposed law is applicable to students graduating from high school during or after the 2017-18 school year.

For students qualifying for a Performance or Honors Award, present law requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 at the end of each academic year. For students qualifying for a TOPS-Tech Award, present law requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50. Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:5041(3); Adds R.S. 17:5041.1)