

---

## 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 549 Original

2024 Regular Session

Amedee

**Abstract:** Removes requirements that home school students complete state-approved home study programs and attain a higher ACT score for initial qualification for a TOPS award.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as a merit scholarship program for students who graduate from a La. public high school or approved nonpublic high school and meet specific initial eligibility requirements, including the following academic requirements, which vary depending on award level:

- (1) Successful completion of a specific high school core curriculum.
- (2) Attainment of a minimum grade point average on such curriculum.
- (3) Attainment of a minimum ACT score.

Present law provides alternative eligibility requirements for other students, including those who complete home study programs and are exempt from the requirements provided in (1) and (2) above but must attain a higher ACT score. Limits eligibility to those who complete home study programs that are approved by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

Proposed law, applicable to students graduating from a home school during the 2023-2024 school year or thereafter, extends eligibility to graduates of any home school rather than limiting eligibility to BESE-approved home study programs and removes the requirement for the higher ACT score.

Present law provides that home school students must also meet general TOPS requirements relative to residency, citizenship, postsecondary enrollment, and criminal history. Proposed law retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:5023(B)(5)(d), 5029(B), and 5062(C)(6)(a)(intro. para.))