
DIGEST

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HB 378 Original

2025 Regular Session

Wilder

Abstract: Removes the requirement that students who complete approved home study programs attain a higher ACT score than students who graduate from approved high schools to qualify initially for a TOPS award.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as a merit scholarship program for students meeting specific initial eligibility requirements, including the following academic requirements, which vary depending on the award level:

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

Present law exempts students who complete approved home study programs from requirements provided in (1) and (2) above but requires them to score at least two points higher than the minimum ACT score required by present law to qualify for a TOPS-Tech or Opportunity Award and one point higher for a Performance or Honors Award (R.S. 17:5029(B)(3)(b)(ii) and (iii)). Proposed law (R.S. 17:5029(B)(3)(a)) removes this requirement, applicable to those initially qualifying for the 2025-2026 award year and thereafter, which would subject them to the following present law minimum ACT score requirements: TOPS-Tech, 17; Opportunity, 20; Performance, 23; and Honors, 27.

(Amends R.S. 17:5029(B)(2) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii) and (iii))