

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 378

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILDER

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

TOPS: Lowers the ACT score required for initial qualification for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award for students who complete approved home study programs

1 AN ACT  
2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5029(B)(2) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii) and (iii), relative to the  
3 Taylor Opportunity Program Award for Students; to provide relative to the alternate  
4 eligibility requirements for students who complete approved home study programs;  
5 to lower the minimum ACT score such students must attain for initial qualification  
6 for an award; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:5029(B)(2) and (3)(a) and (b)(ii) and (iii) are hereby amended and  
9 reenacted to read as follows:

10 §5029. Alternative initial eligibility requirements

11 \* \* \*

12 B. A student who completes a home study program shall be eligible to  
13 receive an award pursuant to this Chapter if each of the following conditions is met:

14 \* \* \*

15 (2) The student meets the requirements of R.S. 17:5022, 5023, 5024(B)(1),  
16 5027, and 5028.

17 (3)(a) ~~Except as provided in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph, For a~~  
18 student qualifying for an initial program award prior to the 2005-2006 award year,  
19 the student has a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT which is at least

1 three points higher than that required by R.S. 17:5024(B) for the particular award or  
2 an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such test or on  
3 the SAT.

4 (b)

5 \* \* \*

6 (ii) For a student qualifying for an initial TOPS-Tech or Opportunity Award  
7 for the 2008-2009 award year ~~or thereafter~~ through the 2024-2025 award year  
8 pursuant to this Subsection, the student shall have a composite score on the 1990  
9 version of the ACT which is at least two points higher than that required by R.S.  
10 17:5024(B) for the particular award or an equivalent concordant value on an  
11 enhanced or revised version of such test or on the SAT.

12 (iii) For a student qualifying for an initial Performance or Honors Award for  
13 the 2008-2009 award year ~~or thereafter~~ through the 2024-2025 award year pursuant  
14 to this Subsection, the student shall have a composite score on the 1990 version of  
15 the ACT which is at least one point higher than that required by R.S. 17:5024(B) for  
16 the particular award or an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised  
17 version of such test or on the SAT.

18 \* \* \*

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#### 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)]

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HB 378 Engrossed

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))