

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

HB 327

2025 Regular Session

Chassion

June 10, 2025

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives and the Honorable President and Members of the Senate.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the conferees appointed to confer over the disagreement between the two houses concerning House Bill No. 327 by Representative Chassion, recommend the following concerning the Engrossed bill:

1. That Senate Floor Amendment No. 1 by Senator Miguez (#2366) be adopted.
2. That Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 by Senator Miguez (#2366) be rejected.
3. That the following amendments to the Engrossed bill be adopted:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 2, after line 7, insert the following:

"Section 2. All nonpublic schools that did not implement a ten-point grading scale in the 2024-2025 school year and submitted grades for students graduating in that school year prior to the effective date of this Act shall recalculate and resubmit recertified grades for any graduate with a cumulative grade point average of less than 3.50. The recalculation shall use the ten-point grading scale as required by R.S. 17:5024(A)(1) as amended and reenacted by this Act, and the nonpublic schools shall submit the recertified grades to the state Department of Education not later than August 31, 2025. The recalculation shall apply to courses in the Opportunity, Performance, and Honors or TOPS-Tech core curricula that were taken in the 2024-2025 school year by any graduating student applying for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award. The recalculation shall use the same percentage values that were originally assigned by the teacher when final grades were initially given.

Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval."

Respectfully submitted,

<div>Representative Tehmi Chaisson</div>	<div>Senator Rick Edmonds</div>
<div>Representative Laurie Schlegel</div>	<div>Senator Blake Miguez</div>
<div>Representative Jason Hughes</div>	<div>Senator Beth Mizell</div>

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)]

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

HB 327

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Keyword and oneliner of the instrument as it left the House

TOPS: Requires schools to use a 10-point grading scale to assign grades used in the calculation of the minimum grade point average required for initial award eligibility

Report adopts Senate amendments to:

1. Apply proposed law beginning with 2024-2025 school year.
2. Provide that proposed law is effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

Report rejects Senate amendments which would have:

1. Required all public and nonpublic schools that submitted grades for 2024-2025 graduates prior to the effective date of proposed law to resubmit recertified grades using the 10-point grading scale by Aug. 31, 2025.

Report amends the bill to:

1. Require nonpublic schools that did not implement a 10-point grading scale in the 2024-2025 school year and that submitted grades for 2024-2025 graduates prior to the effective date of proposed law to recalculate and resubmit recertified grades for any graduate with a cumulative GPA of less than 3.50.
2. Provide that the recalculation shall apply to courses in present law core curricula that were taken in the 2024-2025 school year by any graduating student applying for a program award.
3. Require that the same percentage values as originally assigned be used in such recalculation.

Digest of the bill as proposed by the Conference Committee

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), a merit scholarship program. Provides for academic criteria students must meet in high school in order to qualify initially for a program award, including attainment of a minimum GPA on a specified core curriculum for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors award and a specified core curriculum for a TOPS-Tech award. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law generally requires public schools to use a uniform 10-point grading scale. Proposed law retains present law and requires schools (both public and approved nonpublic schools), beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, to use this grading scale for purposes of assigning grades used in the calculation of such minimum GPA regardless of whether the school uses a different grading scale for other purposes.

Proposed law further requires nonpublic schools that did not implement a 10-point grading scale in the 2024-2025 school year and submitted grades for graduates prior to the effective

date of proposed law to recalculate and resubmit recertified grades for any graduate with a cumulative GPA of less than 3.50 to the state Dept. of Education by Aug. 31, 2025. Provides that this recalculation shall apply to present law core curricula courses taken in the 2024-2025 school year by any graduating student applying for a program award. Requires that the same percentage values as originally assigned be used in such recalculation.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:5024(A)(1))