

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY REPRESENTATIVE TURNER

TOPS: Directs the Board of Regents, Louisiana Works, and Louisiana Economic Development to study the state's return on investment with respect to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students in collaboration with the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To authorize and direct the Board of Regents, Louisiana Works, and Louisiana Economic  
3 Development to jointly study, in collaboration with the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco  
4 Public Policy Center, the state's return on investment with respect to the Taylor  
5 Opportunity Program for Students and submit a written report of findings and  
6 recommendations to the House Committee on Education not later than  
7 March 1, 2027.

8 WHEREAS, the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) has enabled  
9 thousands of Louisiana students to pursue postsecondary education and served as a  
10 cornerstone of opportunity for nearly three decades; and

11 WHEREAS, TOPS represents one of Louisiana's most significant financial  
12 commitments to postsecondary education; and

13 WHEREAS, TOPS has increased college access and retention for Louisiana students,  
14 yet questions persist regarding the program's long-term return on investment for the state;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the Board of Regents, Louisiana Works, and Louisiana Economic  
17 Development each play a central role in aligning education and workforce needs to  
18 strengthen Louisiana's economic competitiveness; and

1           WHEREAS, the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center at the University  
2 of Louisiana at Lafayette conducts objective, data-driven policy research on complex state  
3 programs; and

4           WHEREAS, a coordinated study among these agencies will enable the state to  
5 identify whether current investments in TOPS are producing sufficient workforce and  
6 economic outcomes and to determine how program funds could be better targeted to support  
7 Louisiana's future workforce needs; and

8           WHEREAS, ensuring that Louisiana taxpayers receive an optimal return on their  
9 investment in postsecondary education incentives is essential for the long-term fiscal health  
10 and prosperity of the state.

11           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
12 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby authorize and direct the Board of Regents, Louisiana  
13 Works, and Louisiana Economic Development to jointly study the state's return on  
14 investment with respect to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) and submit  
15 a written report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education not  
16 later than March 1, 2027.

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these agencies shall work collaboratively with  
18 the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center to design the research framework,  
19 collect necessary data, and ensure transparency throughout the process.

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include, at a minimum, the  
21 following:

22           (1) An analysis of post-graduation outcomes for TOPS recipients, including  
23 workforce participation, in-state employment retention, and average earnings.

24           (2) A comparison of the economic and workforce outcomes of TOPS recipients  
25 versus nonrecipients.

26           (3) An assessment of whether the various award levels and institutional distribution  
27 maximize Louisiana's workforce needs and economic development priorities.

28           (4) Recommendations for policy adjustments needed to ensure TOPS funds are used  
29 in a manner aligned with Louisiana's long-term workforce needs, economic competitiveness,  
30 and the prosperity of its citizens.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of this study is not to review  
2 individual TOPS eligibility criteria or award determinations but to examine long-term  
3 economic and workforce trends to inform future state competitiveness.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
5 chairman of the Board of Regents, commissioner of higher education, secretary of Louisiana  
6 Works, and secretary of Louisiana Economic Development.

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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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HR 17 Original

2026 Regular Session

Turner

Authorizes and directs the Bd. of Regents, La. Works, and La. Economic Development to jointly study, in coordination with the Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Public Policy Center, the state's return on investment with respect to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students and to submit a written report to the House Committee on Education not later than March 1, 2027.