

HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

2026 Regular Session

Substitute for Original House Bill No. 787 by Representative McMakin as proposed by the House Committee on Education

This document reflects the content of a substitute bill but is not in a bill form; page numbers in this document DO NOT correspond to page numbers in the substitute bill itself.

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5025(introductory paragraph) and (8), relative to curricula; to remove Computer Science as a requirement for qualification for TOPS awards for certain students; to provide for applicability; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:5025(introductory paragraph) and (8) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§5025. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance, Honors, Excellence Awards

~~To~~ Except as provided in Paragraph (8) of this Section, to be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, Honors, or Excellence Award pursuant to this Chapter, a student shall have successfully completed a core curriculum which consists of twenty units of high school course work as follows:

* * *

(8)(a) Computer Science - one unit. This requirement shall be satisfied as provided in Paragraph (2), (3), or (5) of this Section.

(b) A student who graduates from a nonpublic high school approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education as provided in R.S. 17:11 shall be exempt from the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph.

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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)]

HB Draft

2026 Regular Session

Abstract: Removes completion of a Computer Science course as a requirement for qualification for TOPS for graduates from approved nonpublic high schools.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), a merit scholarship program for students who meet certain academic criteria in high school and other requirements. Provides for five award levels based on high school academic criteria, including completion of a specific core curriculum, a minimum GPA on that core curriculum, and a minimum ACT score: TOPS-Tech, Opportunity, Performance, Honors, and Excellence.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires completion of a one unit Computer Science course to qualify for any level of TOPS award, starting with students who graduate during the 2030-2031 school year.

Proposed law removes this requirement from the core curriculum for students who graduate from a nonpublic high school approved by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education as provided in present law (R.S. 17:11).

(Amends R.S. 17:5025(intro. para.) and (8))