
DIGEST

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HB 104 Original

2016 Regular Session

Mack

Abstract: Requires a student to repay TOPS award amounts if he fails to meet the requirements for maintaining eligibility or fails to complete his academic degree or skill/occupational training within certain specified time frames.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), a program of merit scholarships for students attending certain postsecondary education institutions who meet specific academic criteria and other requirements. Limits the duration of a student's tuition payment to eight semesters (or an equivalent number of units) for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award and to two years for a TOPS-Tech Award. Requires that students meet certain requirements during these time frames in order to maintain continued eligibility. Such requirements include but are not limited to:

- (1) Making steady academic progress while earning enough credits to maintain full-time status.
- (2) Maintaining a minimum required grade point average, depending on the type of award received.
- (3) Having no criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations.

Proposed law requires any student who fails to meet the requirements for maintaining eligibility or fails to complete his academic degree or skill or occupational training within the time frames specified in present law to repay all award amounts paid to a postsecondary education on his behalf.

Proposed law requires the administering agency (the La. Student Financial Assistance Commission) to promulgate rules necessary to implement proposed law, including provision for the following:

- (1) Collecting amounts owed and interest on unpaid amounts.
- (2) Circumstances under which a student shall be excepted from the proposed law repayment requirements; requires that these rules provide for the definition, certification requirements, and maximum duration of these circumstances, which shall be limited to permanent disability and military service.

(Adds R.S. 17:5004)