The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cheryl Serrett.

## DIGEST 2016 Regular Session

SB 81 Original

Morrish

<u>Present law</u> provides as follows relative to the dollar amount awarded to Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) recipients of Opportunity, Performance, or Honors awards:

- (1) For a recipient who attends a La. public college or university to pursue an academic undergraduate degree, the amount is an amount determined by the La. Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC) to equal the tuition charged by the college or university attended.
- (2) For a recipient who attends an eligible state nonpublic college or university, the amount is an amount determined by LASFAC to equal the weighted average amount of amounts paid for students attending public colleges and universities that offer academic undergraduate degrees at the baccalaureate level.
- (3) For a recipient who enrolls in a cosmetology school registered by the La. State Board of Cosmetology or a proprietary school licensed by the Board of Regents, the amount is equal to the amount determined by LASFAC to equal the weighted average of amounts for students attending public colleges and universities who are enrolled in the permitted skill or occupational training.
- (4) For a recipient who enrolls in an out-of-state college or university that is specifically designed to accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing students, the award amount is an amount determined by LASFAC to equal the weighted average of amounts paid for students attending La. public colleges and universities that offer academic undergraduate degrees.
- (5) Provides an additional \$200 per semester, or \$400 per academic year, to a recipient of a Performance Award, and provides an additional \$400 per semester, or \$800 per academic year, to a recipient of an Honors Award.

Relative to the dollar amount of a TOPS-Tech Award, present law provides as follows:

- (1) For a recipient who attends an eligible La. public college or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level, in those associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education programs that are aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council, the award amount equals the actual cost of tuition.
- (2) For a recipient who attends any other eligible postsecondary education institution in those associate's degree or other shorter-term training education programs that are aligned to state

workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council, the award amount equals the amount determined by LASFAC to equal the weighted average of amounts paid for students attending public institutions that do not offer a baccalaureate degree.

<u>Present law</u> provides that for students who graduated prior to the 2016-2017 school year, eligibility for a TOPS-Tech award is not contingent upon a determination by the Bd. of Regents and the La. Workforce Investment Council that the students course of study is aligned with state workforce priorities.

Proposed law retains present law.

## Proposed law provides that:

- (1) Beginning with the 2016-2017 award year, the amount awarded by the state to a student who is the recipient of any TOPS award shall equal the award amount paid for the 2016-2017 award year, unless the legislature increases the amounts by law.
- (2) Beginning with the 2018-2019 award year and every odd-numbered year thereafter, the legislature may increase the award amount if the administering agency recommends to the Legislature that the award amounts increase to align with changes in the Consumer Price Index.
- (3) Retains payment of the supplemental amounts established in present law for a recipient of a Performance or Honors award.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:5002(A), (B), and (D))