

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 243

BY REPRESENTATIVE CARTER

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Provides relative to the eligibility of certain students who graduate from certain out-of-state or out-of-country high schools to receive a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(P)(1)(a) and (V)(1)(a), relative to the Taylor
3 Opportunity Program for Students; to provide for the eligibility of certain students
4 graduating from certain high schools outside of Louisiana or the United States to
5 receive program awards; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related
6 matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(P)(1)(a) and (V)(1)(a) are hereby amended and reenacted
9 to read as follows:

10 §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

11 * * *

12 P.(1) Notwithstanding any initial student eligibility requirement of this
13 Chapter to the contrary, a student shall be eligible to receive a TOPS-Tech Award
14 pursuant to this Section provided each of the applicable following conditions are
15 met:

16 (a) The student has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have met
17 one of the following criteria:

1 (i) The student graduated during the 1996-1997 or the 1997-1998 school year
2 or thereafter from an out-of-state high school which has been approved by the
3 appropriate state educational agency in the state in which the school is located;

4 (ii) The student graduated from an out-of-state high school which is
5 accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on
6 ~~Secondary and Middle Schools~~ and meets the standards adopted by the State Board
7 of Elementary and Secondary Education for approval of nonpublic schools in
8 Louisiana; ~~or, for students certified to have.~~

9 (iii) The student graduated during the 2002-2003 school year or thereafter
10 from an out-of-state high school that is accredited by a regional accrediting
11 organization recognized by the United States Department of Education and meets the
12 standards adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for
13 approval of nonpublic schools in Louisiana; ~~or .~~

14 (iv) The student graduated from a high school which has been approved by
15 the United States Department of Defense.

16 (v) The student graduated during the 2009-2010 school year or thereafter
17 with an International Baccalaureate Diploma from an out-of-state high school
18 approved by the International Baccalaureate Organization to issue such a diploma.

19 * * *

20 V.(1) Notwithstanding any initial student eligibility requirement of this
21 Chapter to the contrary, a student shall be eligible to receive a TOPS-Tech Award
22 pursuant to this Section provided each of the following conditions are met:

23 (a) The student ~~has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have~~
24 meets one of the following criteria:

25 (i) The student has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have
26 graduated during the 2000-2001 school year or thereafter from a high school located
27 outside of the United States and its territories which meets the standards adopted by
28 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for approval of nonpublic

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored
are additions.

1 schools in Louisiana and which is accredited by an accrediting organization
2 recognized by the United States Department of Education, ~~or, in the alternative,~~

3 (ii) The student has been certified by a parent or court-ordered custodian to
4 have successfully completed at the twelfth grade level a home study program
5 approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted
6 outside the United States and its territories.

7 (iii) The student has been certified by the principal or headmaster to have
8 graduated during the 2009-2010 school year or thereafter with an International
9 Baccalaureate Diploma from a high school located outside of the United States and
10 its territories and approved by the International Baccalaureate Organization to issue
11 such a diploma.

12 * * *

13 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
14 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
15 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
16 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
17 effective on the day following such approval.

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)]

Carter

HB No. 243

Abstract: Grants TOPS eligibility to certain students graduating with an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma from a high school that is located outside La. or outside the U.S. and that is approved by the IB Organization to issue such a diploma.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as a program of merit scholarships for students attending certain postsecondary education institutions who meet specific grade point average, ACT/SAT score, and core curriculum requirements and certain other qualifications. Provides that certain students who graduate from certain high schools outside La. or outside the U.S. are eligible for TOPS awards under alternative academic guidelines if the student graduated from a high school which meets certain approval or accreditation criteria or the student completed an approved home study program outside of the U.S.

Proposed law additionally provides eligibility for TOPS awards under alternative academic guidelines if the student graduated during the 2009-2010 school year or thereafter with an

IB Diploma from a high school located outside La. or the U.S. and approved by the IB Organization to issue such a diploma.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(P)(1)(a) and (V)(1)(a))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Relative to eligibility under proposed law, changes the school year during or after which a student shall have graduated from 2010-2011 to 2009-2010.