

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 25

BY REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: Provides for additional tuition charges on a credit-hour basis and excludes such additional charges from TOPS award payments

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3351.16, relative to tuition charges at certain public postsecondary  
3 education institutions; to authorize the boards of supervisors of the Louisiana State  
4 University System, the Southern University System, and the University of Louisiana  
5 System to establish and impose an additional tuition charge on a credit-hour basis for  
6 students attending the institutions under the management and supervision of the  
7 respective board and to provide relative to such charges; to provide that such  
8 additional tuition charges shall not be included in or paid by any Louisiana Taylor  
9 Opportunity Program for Students award; to provide for waivers from such charges;  
10 to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

11 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

12 Section 1. R.S. 17:3351.16 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §3351.16. Certain management boards; additional tuition charges per credit hour  
14 A. In accordance with Article VII, Section 2.1(A) of the Constitution of  
15 Louisiana and in addition to any other authority of the board of supervisors of the  
16 Louisiana State University System, the Southern University System, or the  
17 University of Louisiana System to impose tuition or fees, each such board may  
18 establish an additional tuition charge per credit hour in which a student is enrolled  
19 in excess of twelve credit hours in a semester or in excess of eight credit hours in a  
20 quarter. The additional tuition charge shall not exceed one-twelfth of the tuition

1 charge for twelve credit hours per semester or one-eighth of the tuition charge for  
2 eight credit hours per quarter, as the case may be.

3 B. Any additional tuition charge imposed pursuant to this Section shall not  
4 be included in the determination of the amount to be paid on behalf of a student  
5 pursuant to an award under the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students,  
6 and no such additional tuition charge shall be paid as part of such an award.

7 C. Prior to imposing any additional tuition charge pursuant to the provisions  
8 of this Section, the management board shall establish criteria for waivers of such  
9 additional tuition charges in cases of financial hardship. Information about such  
10 waivers and the criteria and procedures for obtaining a waiver shall be made  
11 available to all prospective and continuing students affected by the additional  
12 charges in a timely manner such that the students are aware of the charges and the  
13 availability of waivers prior to their making a final decision concerning attendance  
14 or continued attendance at the college or university.

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

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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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Richard

HB No. 25

**Abstract:** Authorizes the boards of supervisors of the LSU System, the Southern University System, and the University of La. System to impose additional per credit-hour tuition charges on students enrolled in more than 12 credit hours per semester or eight credit hours per quarter. Excludes such additional tuition charges from TOPS award payments. Provides for limitations and waivers.

Proposed law authorizes the boards of supervisors of the LSU System, the Southern University System, and the University of La. System to establish an additional tuition charge per credit-hour in which a student is enrolled in excess of 12 credit-hours in a semester or in excess of eight credit hours in a quarter. Limits such per credit-hour charge to 1/12 of the

tuition charge for 12 credit hours per semester or 1/8 of the tuition charge for eight credit hours per quarter, as the case may be.

Present law (R.S. 17:3048.1 et seq.) establishes the La. Taylor Opportunity Program for Students or TOPS which provides for certain awards to full-time students who meet certain qualifications and who are enrolled in public colleges and universities (or certain other institutions) and for payment on their behalf of amounts determined by the administering agency to equal the actual cost of tuition. (Certain awards also include other monetary amounts.)

Proposed law specifies that any additional tuition charge imposed pursuant to proposed law shall not be included in determining the amount to be paid on behalf of a student pursuant to a TOPS award and prohibits payment of any such additional charge as part of a TOPS award.

Proposed law requires that the boards, prior to imposing the additional tuition charge, establish criteria for waivers of such additional tuition charges in cases of financial hardship. Further requires that information about such waivers and the criteria and procedures for obtaining a waiver shall be made available to all affected prospective and continuing students in a timely manner such that the students are aware of the charges and the availability of waivers prior to making a final decision concerning attendance or continued attendance at the college or university.

Proposed law is in addition to any other authority of any of the boards to impose tuition or fees.

Proposed law provides that it is in accordance with Const. Art. VII, §2.1(A) that any new fee imposed or assessed by a state board or agency must be enacted by law by a 2/3 vote of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:3351.16)