

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 612

BY REPRESENTATIVE GREENE

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

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Permits use of TOPS awards at eligible La. institutions by otherwise qualified students who graduated from out-of-state colleges or universities

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:3048.1(Y), relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to  
3 provide for the use of awards at eligible Louisiana institutions by otherwise qualified  
4 students who enroll as first-time students in and graduate from an out-of-state  
5 college or university; to provide for the use of awards by such students to pursue a  
6 postgraduate academic degree; to provide conditions and limitations; to provide for  
7 award amounts; to provide for effectiveness; to provide an effective date; and to  
8 provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(Y) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

12 \* \* \*

13 Y.(1) Notwithstanding any provision of this Chapter to the contrary, an  
14 otherwise qualified student who meets each of the following conditions and who first  
15 enrolls as a full-time student in an out-of-state college or university and remains in  
16 and graduates from an out-of-state college or university may use the program award  
17 provided for by this Section to pursue a postgraduate academic degree at an eligible  
18 institution provided that the student continues to meet all academic and other  
19 requirements provided by this Section and by rule of the administering agency for

1 continued receipt of the award as an undergraduate except as such requirements,  
2 including requirements provided by this Section for undergraduate students, may be  
3 modified by the administering agency as necessary to apply such requirements to  
4 postgraduate study:

5 (a) The student has been determined by the administering agency to meet the  
6 initial eligibility requirements established by this Section for an Opportunity,  
7 Performance, or Honors award.

8 (b) The student graduated from an out-of-state college or university and the  
9 out-of-state college or university is accredited by a regional accrediting organization  
10 recognized by the United States Department of Education.

11 (c) While enrolled in such an out-of-state college or university the student  
12 met all requirements of this Section that would have been applicable to such student  
13 for continuation of the initial award if the student had enrolled in an eligible college  
14 or university in Louisiana.

15 (d) The student graduated from high school during the 2008-2009 school  
16 year or thereafter.

17 (2) The amount of the award benefits relative to tuition as provided for in  
18 this Subsection shall not exceed the amounts determined by the administering agency  
19 to equal the tuition charged for the postgraduate study or for undergraduate full-time  
20 enrollment charged by the highest cost public college university in the state,  
21 whichever amount is less.

22 (3) A student may receive the award under this Subsection for the number  
23 of semesters authorized by Subsection H of this Section, provided that the number  
24 of semesters shall be reduced as required by Subsection C of this Section.

25 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
26 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
27 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
28 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
29 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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Greene

HB No. 612

**Abstract:** Permits use of TOPS awards to pursue a postgraduate academic degree at eligible La. institutions by otherwise qualified students who enroll as first-time students in and graduate from out-of-state colleges or universities.

Proposed law, relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), adds that notwithstanding present law to the contrary, an otherwise qualified student who meets each of the following conditions and who first enrolls as a full-time student in an out-of-state college or university and remains in and graduates from an out-of-state college or university may use the program award to pursue a postgraduate academic degree at an eligible institution if the student continues to meet all academic and other requirements for continued receipt of the award as an undergraduate except as such requirements are modified by the administering agency to apply to postgraduate study:

- (1) The student meets the initial eligibility requirements for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors award.
- (2) The student graduated from an out-of-state college or university accredited by a regional accrediting organization recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Education.
- (3) While enrolled in such an out-of-state college or university, the student met all requirements that would have been applicable to such student for continuation of the initial award if the student had enrolled in an eligible La. college or university.
- (4) The student graduated from high school during the 2008-2009 school year or thereafter.

Provides that the amount of the tuition award shall not exceed the amounts determined by the administering agency to equal the tuition charged for the postgraduate study or for undergraduate full-time enrollment charged by the highest cost public college university in the state, whichever is less. Permits student to receive the award for the number of semesters authorized by present law (no more than eight semesters or its equivalent), as reduced pursuant to present law.

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

(Adds R.S. 17:3048.1(Y))