

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 841

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Relative to Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, provides for award dollar amounts

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(2), (3), and (5)(b), and (B)(2)(introductory
3 paragraph); to provide relative to the monetary amount of awards pursuant to the
4 Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to provide for award amount
5 determinations; to provide guidelines; to provide applicability; to provide for
6 effectiveness; to provide relative to the duties and responsibilities of the Board of
7 Regents and the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission in determining
8 award amounts; to provide an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(2), (3), and (5)(b), and (B)(2)(introductory paragraph)
11 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

12 §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

13 A.

14 * * *

15 (2)(a) Any student who applies for an Opportunity Award in accordance with
16 Subparagraph (A)(1)(b), who enrolled in any public college or university in the state
17 to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or skill or occupational training,
18 including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a
19 nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the qualifications enumerated
20 in Subparagraphs (A)(1)(a), (e), and (f), shall be awarded by the state an amount
21 determined by the administering agency to equal the tuition charged by the public
22 college or university attended in the state; however, notwithstanding any provision

1 of this Chapter to the contrary, beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year and for
2 each academic year thereafter, any otherwise qualified student who enrolls as a first-
3 time freshman in the 2013-2014 academic year or any academic year thereafter, the
4 Opportunity Award amount shall be established by the Board of Regents in its
5 Tuition and Financial Aid Policy in consultation with the administering agency as
6 approved by the legislature. The board annually shall consider any necessary
7 adjustment to the amount and recommend any such adjustment to the legislature no
8 later than ninety days prior to the convening of the next regular legislative session.

9 (b) For any student who meets such qualifications and who has enrolled at
10 any regionally accredited independent college or university in the state which is a
11 member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities to
12 pursue an academic undergraduate degree or skill or occupational training, including
13 a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic
14 undergraduate degree, the state shall award an amount to be determined by the
15 administering agency to equal the weighted average of amounts paid under this
16 Section for students attending public colleges and universities that offer academic
17 undergraduate degrees at the baccalaureate level or an amount to be determined by
18 the administering agency to equal the weighted average of amounts paid under this
19 Section for students attending public colleges and universities who are enrolled in
20 the permitted skill or occupational training, as may be applicable; however,
21 beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year and for each academic year thereafter,
22 the amount awarded by the state to such student shall be established by the Louisiana
23 Board of Regents in its Tuition and Financial Aid Policy in consultation with the
24 administering agency as approved by the legislature. The board annually shall
25 consider any necessary adjustment to the amount and recommend any such
26 adjustment to the legislature no later than ninety days prior to the convening of the
27 next regular legislative session.

28 (3) Any student who applies for a Performance or an Honors Award in
29 accordance with Subparagraph (A)(1)(c) or (d) and who meets the qualifications

1 enumerated in Subparagraphs (A)(1)(a), (e), and (f) shall have payments made on
2 their behalf as follows:

3 (a) For any student who qualifies to receive an Honors Award in accordance
4 with Subparagraph (A)(1)(d) and who has enrolled at any public college or university
5 in the state to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or to pursue skill or
6 occupational training, including a vocational or technical education certificate or
7 diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, the state shall award an
8 amount determined by the administering agency to equal the tuition charged by the
9 public college or university attended in the state, plus the sum of four hundred
10 dollars per semester or eight hundred dollars per academic year; however, beginning
11 with the 2013-2014 academic year and for each academic year thereafter, the amount
12 of the Honors Award awarded by the state to such student shall equal the amount of
13 the Opportunity Award, plus the sum of four hundred dollars per semester or eight
14 hundred dollars per academic year.

15 (b) For any student who qualifies to receive an Honors Award in accordance
16 with Subparagraph (A)(1)(d) and who has enrolled at any regionally accredited
17 independent college or university in the state which is a member of the Louisiana
18 Association of Independent Colleges and Universities to pursue an academic
19 undergraduate degree or skill or occupational training, including a vocational or
20 technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate
21 degree, the state shall award an amount determined by the administering agency to
22 equal the weighted average of the amounts awarded under this Section for students
23 attending public colleges and universities that offer academic undergraduate degrees
24 at the baccalaureate level or an amount to be determined by the administering agency
25 to equal the weighted average of amounts paid under this Section for students
26 attending public colleges and universities who are enrolled in the permitted skill or
27 occupational training, as may be applicable, plus the sum of four hundred dollars per
28 semester or eight hundred dollars per academic year; however, beginning with the
29 2013-2014 academic year and for each academic year thereafter, the amount of the

1 Honors Award awarded by the state to such student shall equal the amount
2 established by the Board of Regents in its Tuition and Financial Aid Policy as
3 approved by the legislature, plus the sum of four hundred dollars per semester or
4 eight hundred dollars per academic year.

5 (c) For any student who qualifies to receive a Performance Award in
6 accordance with Subparagraph (A)(1)(c) and who has enrolled at any public college
7 or university in the state to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or to pursue
8 skill or occupational training, including a vocational or technical education
9 certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, the state
10 shall award an amount equal to the tuition charged by the public college or university
11 attended in the state, plus the sum of two hundred dollars per semester or four
12 hundred dollars per academic year; however, beginning with the 2013-2014
13 academic year and for each academic year thereafter, the amount of the Performance
14 Award awarded by the state to such student shall equal the amount of the
15 Opportunity Award, plus the sum of two hundred dollars per semester or four
16 hundred dollars per academic year.

17 (d) For any student who qualifies to receive a Performance Award in
18 accordance with Subparagraph (A)(1)(c) and who has enrolled at any regionally
19 accredited independent college or university in the state which is a member of the
20 Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities to pursue an
21 academic undergraduate degree or skill or occupational training, including a
22 vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic
23 undergraduate degree, the state shall award an amount determined by the
24 administering agency to equal the weighted average of the amounts awarded under
25 this Section for students attending public colleges and universities that offer
26 academic undergraduate degrees at the baccalaureate level or an amount to be
27 determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted average of amounts
28 paid under this Section for students attending public colleges and universities who
29 are enrolled in the permitted skill or occupational training, as may be applicable, plus

1 the sum of two hundred dollars per semester or four hundred dollars per academic
 2 year; however, beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year and for each academic
 3 year thereafter, the amount of the Performance Award awarded by the state to such
 4 student shall equal the amount established by the Board of Regents in its Tuition and
 5 Financial Aid Policy as approved by the legislature, plus the sum of two hundred
 6 dollars per semester or four hundred dollars per academic year.

7 * * *

8 (5)

9 * * *

10 (b)(i) For any student who is the recipient of an Opportunity Award and who
 11 is eligible to use the award at an out-of-state nonpublic college or university pursuant
 12 to the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, the award amount to pursue
 13 an academic undergraduate degree shall be an amount determined by the
 14 administering agency to equal the weighted average of amounts paid under this
 15 Section for students attending Louisiana public colleges and universities that offer
 16 academic undergraduate degrees; however, beginning with the 2013-2014 academic
 17 year and for each academic year thereafter, the amount awarded by the state to such
 18 student shall equal the amount established by the Board of Regents in its Tuition and
 19 Financial Aid Policy as approved by the legislature. The board annually shall
 20 consider any necessary adjustment to the amount and recommend any such
 21 adjustment to the legislature no later than ninety days prior to the convening of the
 22 next regular legislative session.

23 (ii) For any student who is the recipient of a Performance Award and who
 24 is eligible to use the award at an out-of-state nonpublic college or university pursuant
 25 to the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph, the award amount to pursue
 26 an academic undergraduate degree shall be an amount determined by the
 27 administering agency to equal the weighted average of amounts paid under this
 28 Section for students attending Louisiana public colleges and universities that offer
 29 academic undergraduate degrees plus the sum of two hundred dollars per semester

1 school during the 2000-2001 school year and thereafter the state shall award an
 2 amount determined by the administering agency in accordance with the provisions
 3 of Subparagraph (f) of this Paragraph for any student who enrolls on a full-time basis
 4 in an eligible college or university as defined in Subsection A of this Section to
 5 pursue skill or occupational training as defined by the Board of Regents, including
 6 a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic
 7 undergraduate degree, and who meets the following qualifications and all other
 8 applicable qualifications of this ~~Chapter~~Chapter, provided that beginning with the
 9 2013-2014 academic year and for each academic year thereafter, the amount shall
 10 be established by the Board of Regents in consultation with the administering agency
 11 in its Tuition and Financial Aid Policy as approved by the legislature. The Board of
 12 Regents annually shall consider any necessary adjustment to the amount and
 13 recommend any such adjustment to the legislature no later than ninety days prior to
 14 the convening of the next regular legislative session:

* * *

16 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
 17 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
 18 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
 19 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
 20 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)]

Smith

HB No. 841

Abstract: Provides that beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year and for each academic year thereafter, the amount of a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award shall equal the amount established by the Bd. of Regents in its Tuition and Financial Aid Policy. Retains payment of supplemental amounts established for a recipient of a Performance or Honors award.

Relative to the dollar amount of TOPS awards, present law provides as follows for recipients of Opportunity, Performance, or Honors awards:

For a recipient of who attends a La. public college or university to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or skill or occupational training, the amount is an amount determined by the La. Student Financial Assistance Commission (LSFAC) to equal the tuition charged by the college or university attended.

For a recipient who attends an eligible state nonpublic college or university, the amount is an amount determined by LSFAC 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 OR an amount determined by LSFAC to equal the weighted average of amounts paid for students attending public colleges and universities who are enrolled in permitted skill or occupational training, as applicable.

For a recipient who is eligible to use the award at an out-of-state nonpublic college or university to pursue an academic undergraduate degree, the amount is an amount determined by LSFAC to equal the weighted average of amounts paid for students attending La. public colleges and universities that offer academic undergraduate degrees.

For a recipient of a Performance Award, also provides \$200 per semester or \$400 per academic year. For a recipient of an Honors Award, provides an additional \$400 per semester or \$800 per academic year.

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

For a recipient who attends an eligible La. public college or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level or higher to pursue permitted skill or occupational training, the amount equals the actual cost of tuition.

For a recipient who attends any other eligible postsecondary education institution, the amount equals the weighted average of amounts paid for students attending public institutions.

Proposed law provides that beginning with the 2013-2014 academic year and for each academic year thereafter, the TOPS award amount shall be established by the Board of Regents (in consultation with LSFAC) in the board's Tuition and Financial Aid Policy as approved by the legislature. Provides that the board annually shall consider any necessary adjustment to the amount and recommend any such adjustment to the legislature no later than 90 days prior to the convening of the next regular session. Proposed law retains payment of the supplemental amounts established for a recipient of a Performance or Honors award.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(2), (3), and (5)(b), and (B)(2)(intro. para.))