

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 134

BY REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission, in consultation with the Board of Regents, to study the feasibility of requiring drug testing for students to qualify for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award and to report its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, TOPS is Louisiana's merit-based scholarship program that awards qualifying students tuition payments for up to eight semesters at eligible Louisiana postsecondary education institutions; and

WHEREAS, the projected number of TOPS recipients for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 is close to forty-two thousand with a total funding of nearly one hundred seventy million dollars; and

WHEREAS, drug testing is viewed by many as a means to prevent, deter, and detect drug use among students; and

WHEREAS, TOPS awards are funded with taxpayer dollars, therefore it is only fitting that a study be conducted to determine the feasibility of requiring drug testing for students to qualify for TOPS in order to ensure that such taxpayer dollars are being used to help students who have education as a priority and not students who are engaging in habits or practices that could result in them quitting college and wasting their TOPS award.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission, in consultation with the Board of Regents, to study the feasibility of requiring drug testing for students to qualify for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award and to submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the

House Committee on Education prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission, the executive director of the office of student financial assistance, the chairman of the Board of Regents, and the commissioner of higher education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES