

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE BILL NO. 182

BY SENATORS N. GAUTREAUX, ADLEY, MARIONNEAUX, MURRAY, RISER AND
SHAW AND REPRESENTATIVES EDWARDS, ELLINGTON,
GISCLAIR, KATZ, MCVEA, MONICA AND SCHRODER

TOPS. Provides for certain awards and payments from the Tuition Opportunity Program for
Students for Louisiana National Guardsmen. (gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(O)(1), (2) and (3), relative to the Taylor Opportunity
3 Program for Students; to provide for certain awards and payments for Louisiana
4 National Guardsmen; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(O)(1), (2) and (3) are hereby amended and reenacted to
7 read as follows:

8 §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

9 * * *

10 O. In lieu of the payment of tuition as provided in this Section, any student
11 participating in the program provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the
12 Louisiana National Guard shall receive the tuition exemption as provided therein.
13 However, in addition to any other payments provided for by this Section:

14 (1) For any student who is participating in the tuition exemption program
15 provided by R.S. 29:36.1 and who also meets the qualifications provided in this
16 Section for receipt of an Opportunity Award, the state shall pay on behalf of such
17 student a sum of not more than ~~one~~ **three** hundred ~~fifty~~ dollars per semester or ~~three~~

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Present law provides that in lieu of the payment of tuition pursuant to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), any student participating in the tuition exemption program for persons serving in the Louisiana National Guard shall receive such tuition exemption. Provides additionally, however, for the payment of a sum on behalf of eligible National Guardsmen for who also meet the minimum qualifications for receipt of a TOPS Award as follows:

- (1) Opportunity Award: sum of not more than \$150 per semester or \$300 per academic year for the actual cost of books and other instructional materials.
- (2) Performance Award: sum of not more than \$150 per semester or \$300 per academic year for the actual cost of books and other instructional materials and an additional sum of \$200 per semester or \$400 per academic year for certain other educational expenses.
- (3) Honors Award: sum of not more than \$150 per semester or \$300 per academic year for the actual cost of books and other instructional material, plus an additional sum of \$400 per semester or \$800 per academic year for certain other educational expenses.

Proposed law retains payments for National Guardsmen for the educational expenses as provided present law, but doubles the amounts of such payments as follows:

- 1) For actual cost of books and other instructional materials for those who qualify for any award level (Opportunity, Performance, or Honors): sum of not more than \$300 per semester or \$600 per academic year.
- (2) For certain other educational expenses for those who qualify for a Performance Award: an additional sum of \$400 per semester or \$800 per academic year.
- (3) For certain other education expenses for those who qualify for an Honors Award: an additional sum of \$800 per semester or \$1600 per academic year.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(O)(1),(2) and (3))