SLS 10RS-64

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

Page 1 of 3 Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions. 1 2 **<u>six</u>** hundred dollars per academic year for the actual cost of books and other instructional materials.

3 (2) For any student who is participating in the tuition exemption program 4 provided by R.S. 29:36.1 and who also meets the qualifications provided in this Section for receipt of a Performance Award, the state shall pay on behalf of the 5 student a sum of not more than one three hundred fifty dollars per semester or three 6 six hundred dollars per academic year for the actual cost of books and other 7 8 instructional materials plus the sum of two four hundred dollars per semester or four 9 eight hundred dollars per academic year for other educational expenses as defined 10 by the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission.

11 (3) For any student who is participating in the tuition exemption program 12 provided by R.S. 29:36.1 and who also meets the qualifications provided in this 13 Section for receipt of an Honors Award, the state shall pay on behalf of the student 14 a sum of not more than one three hundred fifty dollars per semester or three six hundred dollars per academic year for the actual cost of books and other instructional 15 16 materials plus the sum of four eight hundred dollars per semester or eight one thousand six hundred dollars per academic year for other educational expenses as 17 18 defined by the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission.

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20 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not 21 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature 22 by the governor, as provided in Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If 23 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become 24 effective on the day following such approval.

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

DIGEST

<u>Present law</u> 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.

<u>Proposed law</u> retains payments for National Guardsmen for the educational expenses as provided <u>present law</u>, 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))