

SENATE BILL NO. 202

BY SENATORS NEVERS AND THOMPSON

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

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(b)(ii), (c)(ii), and (d)(ii), the introductory
3 paragraph of (A)(1)(e), (f), and (g), and (C)(2)(e), and to enact R.S.
4 17:3048.1(A)(1)(h), relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to
5 revise the core curriculum requirements and the method of calculating the grade
6 point average required for program awards; to provide with respect to the method of
7 approval of core curriculum course substitutions; to provide an effective date; and
8 to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(b)(ii), (c)(ii), and (d)(ii), the introductory paragraph
11 of (A)(1)(e), (f), and (g), and (C)(2)(e) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
12 17:3048.1(A)(1)(h) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

14 A.(1) As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, the
15 state shall financially assist any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in a public
16 college or university in this state or a regionally accredited independent college or
17 university in the state that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent
18 Colleges or Universities, hereafter in this Chapter referred to collectively as "eligible
19 colleges or universities", to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or, as provided
20 by this Subsection, skill or occupational training as defined by the Board of Regents,
21 including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a
22 nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the qualifications of
23 Subparagraph (b), (c), or (d) of this Paragraph and all of the applicable following
24 qualifications:

25 * * *

26 (b) * * *

1 (ii)(aa) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year and thereafter, the
2 minimum cumulative grade point average specified in Item (i) of this Subparagraph
3 shall be calculated by using only the grades obtained by the student in completing
4 the core curriculum requirements established by this Section.

5 (bb) Beginning with students graduating in the 2017-2018 school year
6 and thereafter, the calculation of the minimum cumulative grade point average
7 specified in Item (i) of this Subparagraph shall utilize a five-point scale for
8 grades earned in certain Advanced Placement courses, International
9 Baccalaureate courses, gifted courses, and dual enrollment courses as approved
10 by the Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
11 Education, which may result in a student earning a cumulative grade point
12 average that exceeds 4.00. For such courses, five quality points shall be assigned
13 to a letter grade of "A", four quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade
14 of "B", three quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "C", two
15 quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "D", and zero quality points
16 shall be assigned to a letter grade of "F".

17 (c) * * *

18 (ii)(aa) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year and thereafter, the
19 minimum cumulative grade point average specified in Item (i) of this Subparagraph
20 shall be calculated by using only the grades obtained by the student in completing
21 the core curriculum requirements established by this Section.

22 (bb) Beginning with students graduating in the 2017-2018 school year
23 and thereafter, the calculation of the minimum cumulative grade point average
24 specified in Item (i) of this Subparagraph shall utilize a five-point scale for
25 grades earned in certain Advanced Placement courses, International
26 Baccalaureate courses, gifted courses, and dual enrollment courses as approved
27 by the Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
28 Education, which may result in a student earning a cumulative grade point
29 average that exceeds 4.00. For such courses, five quality points shall be assigned
30 to a letter grade of "A", four quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade

1 of "B", three quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "C", two
 2 quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "D", and zero quality points
 3 shall be assigned to a letter grade of "F".

4 * * *

5 (d) * * *

6 (ii)(aa) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year and thereafter, the
 7 minimum cumulative grade point average specified in Item (i) of this Subparagraph
 8 shall be calculated by using only the grades obtained by the student in completing
 9 the core curriculum requirements established by this Section.

10 (bb) Beginning with students graduating in the 2017-2018 school year
 11 and thereafter, the calculation of the minimum cumulative grade point average
 12 specified in Item (i) of this Subparagraph shall utilize a five-point scale for
 13 grades earned in certain Advanced Placement courses, International
 14 Baccalaureate courses, gifted courses, and dual enrollment courses as approved
 15 by the Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
 16 Education, which may result in a student earning a cumulative grade point
 17 average that exceeds 4.00. For such courses, five quality points shall be assigned
 18 to a letter grade of "A", four quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade
 19 of "B", three quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "C", two
 20 quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "D", and zero quality points
 21 shall be assigned to a letter grade of "F".

22 (e) Except as otherwise provided by this Section and through the 2006-2007
 23 school year, has successfully completed at least sixteen and one-half units of high
 24 school course work, which constitutes a core curriculum, and meets standards for
 25 admission to the desired college or university. Except as otherwise provided by this
 26 Section and beginning with the 2007-2008 school year through the 2012-2013 school
 27 year, meets standards for admission to the desired college or university and has
 28 successfully completed at least seventeen and one-half units of high school course
 29 work as permitted by this Subparagraph, which constitutes a core curriculum.
 30 Except as otherwise provided by this Section and beginning with the 2013-2014

1 school year ~~and thereafter~~ **through the 2016-2017 school year**, meets the standards
2 for admissions to the desired college or university and has successfully completed
3 at least nineteen units of high school course work as permitted by this Subparagraph,
4 which constitutes a core curriculum. For students qualifying under Subparagraph
5 (A)(1)(c) of this Section, the core curriculum requirements of this Subparagraph
6 shall become effective beginning with the high school graduating class of the year
7 1998, except that the core curriculum requirement for a Performance Award shall be
8 waived for any student graduating during the 1997-1998 school year who is certified
9 as having graduated within the top five percent of his graduating class at a Louisiana
10 public high school or nonpublic high school which is approved by the State Board
11 of Elementary and Secondary Education. Except as otherwise provided by this
12 Section, the core curriculum shall be defined as follows:

13 * * *

14 (f) **Except as otherwise provided by this Section and beginning with**
15 **students graduating in the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter, meets the**
16 **standards for admissions to the desired college or university and has**
17 **successfully completed a core curriculum which consists of nineteen units of**
18 **high school course work as follows:**

19 (i) **English - Four Units**

20 (aa) **English I.**

21 (bb) **English II.**

22 (cc) **One unit chosen from the following: English III, AP English**
23 **Language Arts and Composition, or English III IB (Language A or Literature**
24 **and Performance).**

25 (dd) **One unit chosen from the following: English IV, AP English**
26 **Literature and Composition, or English IV IB (Language A or Literature and**
27 **Performance).**

28 (ii) **Mathematics - Four Units**

29 (aa) **Algebra I (one unit), Geometry (one unit), and Algebra II (one unit).**
30 **Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, and Integrated**

Mathematics III may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II sequence.

(bb) One unit chosen from the following: Algebra III; Advanced Math Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math-Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or Math Methods I IB (Mathematical Studies SL); Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or Math Methods II IB (Mathematics SL); AP Calculus BC; Probability and Statistics or AP Statistics; IB Further Mathematics HL; IB Mathematics HL.

(iii) Science - Four Units

(aa) Biology I.

(bb) Chemistry I.

(cc) Two units chosen from the following: Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one unit combined); Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, or IB Physics II; AP Physics I and AP Physics II; Biology II, AP Biology, or IB Biology II.

(iv) Social Studies - Four Units

(aa) One unit chosen from the following: U.S. History, AP US History, or IB US History.

(bb) One-half unit chosen from the following: Government, AP US Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP US Government and Politics: United States.

(cc) One-half unit chosen from the following: Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics.

(dd) One unit of Civics may be substituted to satisfy the combined subject matter requirements enumerated in Subitems (bb) and (cc) of this Item.

(ee) Two units chosen from the following: Western Civilization, European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics.

(v) Foreign Language - Two Units

Two units in the same language, which may include the following: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, French IV IB, French V IB, Spanish IV IB, and Spanish V IB.

(vi) Art - One unit

One unit chosen from the following: Performance course in Music, Dance, or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Music I, II, III, and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; Speech III and Speech IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory; Film Study I IB; Film Study II IB; Music I IB; Music II IB; Art Design III IB; Art Design IV IB; or Theatre I IB.

(vii) For the purposes of this Subsection, any core curriculum course that is taken by a student who has been identified as gifted pursuant to State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education policy and that is taken in fulfillment of the student's Individualized Education Plan shall be considered a gifted course and shall fulfill the core curriculum requirement in its given subject area.

(f) ~~(g)~~ Has no criminal conviction, except for misdemeanor traffic violations and, if the student has been in the United States Armed Forces and has separated from such service, has received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions.

~~(g)~~ **(h)** Students funded through the Louisiana minimum foundation program and who are attending any high school in an adjoining state pursuant to an agreement in effect as of June 4, 1994, between the parish school system and the local governing authority of the school in the adjoining state, shall be considered as having graduated from a state-approved nonpublic high school for the purpose of qualifying under Subparagraphs (A)(1)(b), (c), and (d).

1 * * *

2 C. * * *

3 (2) Except as otherwise provided by this Paragraph, the administering agency
4 by rule shall provide for:

5 * * *

6 (e) Guidelines and procedures by which the administering agency, **subject**
7 **to prior approval by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education,**
8 may update the course name and establish course equivalencies for any course
9 included in the definition of core curriculum provided by this Section. The
10 guidelines and procedures shall include but not be limited to a requirement that any
11 change in a course name and the establishment of any course equivalency be done
12 by rule adopted by the administering agency and a requirement that prior to issuing
13 a notice of intent to consider any such rule the administering agency shall consult
14 with and seek the written comments and recommendations of the ~~State Board of~~
15 ~~Elementary and Secondary Education and the Board of Regents~~ on making the name
16 change or establishing the course equivalency.

17 * * *

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____