

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY SENATOR BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents to study the need for and feasibility of updating

Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) reporting requirements to include data on scholarship recipients' employment outcomes and other relevant data points.

WHEREAS, TOPS has often been cited as a program geared to keep the state's best and brightest in state for their postsecondary education, with the expectation that they will remain in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the number of students receiving TOPS has more than doubled and the cost for the program has increased almost sixfold; and

WHEREAS, legislators need information regarding TOPS recipients in order to make programmatic decisions to ensure state appropriations are being spent in a manner that benefits all citizens of the state; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:5067 requires the Board of Regents to formulate, develop, and implement a TOPS information reporting system for the purposes of policy analysis and program evaluation; and

WHEREAS, Act 671 of the 2018 regular session of the Louisiana Legislature clarified that the Department of Revenue is not prohibited from sharing taxpayer information for the purpose of determining the employment and residency status of past TOPS recipients; and

WHEREAS, information regarding the status of TOPS recipients after exiting postsecondary education, including residency, employment status, the employing industry sectors, and changes in household income, may help legislators make informed decisions regarding TOPS; and

WHEREAS, with the wealth of student information harvested by the Board of Regents, understanding how certain factors relate to TOPS degree attainment, such as time-to-degree, and living on- or off-campus during college, could lead to solid policy recommendations to enhance TOPS.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the Board of Regents to study the need for and feasibility of updating Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) reporting requirements to include data on scholarship recipients' employment outcomes and other relevant data points.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the chair of the Board of Regents and the commissioner of higher education.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE