
DIGEST

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Cox

HCR No. 173

Requests that the Bd. of Regents and the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), in collaboration with the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, La. Office of Student Financial Assistance, public postsecondary education management boards, La. Assoc. of Independent Colleges and Universities, La. Dept. of Economic Development, La. Workforce Commission, La. Assoc. of Business and Industry, Council for a Better La., La. School Counselors Assoc., La. Assoc. of School Superintendents, La. Assoc. of Educators, La. Federation of Teachers, Associated Professional Educators of La., La. School Boards Assoc., the parent of a high school student selected by the BESE president, the parent of a college student selected by the Bd. of Regents chairman, and any other person or entity the Bd. of Regents and BESE deem appropriate, study certain issues relative to TOPS. Such issues shall include but need not be limited to the following:

- (1) Measures that may be taken in order to align the granting of TOPS awards with the meeting of workforce needs.
- (2) Facilitating the efforts of guidance counselors with respect to counseling students about TOPS before they enter high school and while they are in high school.
- (3) Establishing a "Total Louisiana" workforce counseling program in which each high school student will receive personalized guidance counseling on how his skills and aptitudes best align with La. employment opportunities.
- (4) The cost of TOPS thus far and projected future costs, degrees obtained by TOPS recipients, the number of TOPS recipients who lose their awards, and the number of TOPS recipients who do not graduate.
- (5) Relative to TOPS-Tech, the feasibility of lowering the minimum ACT score and of eliminating chemistry courses from the core curriculum required for initial eligibility.
- (6) Relative to TOPS-Tech, the feasibility of allowing certain individuals who receive a GED to qualify.

Further requests that the Bd. of Regents and BESE submit jointly a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House and Senate education committees not later than 60 days prior to the 2015 R.S.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original resolution.

1. Instead of including BESE among the entities with which the Bd. of Regents is requested to collaborate on the study, requests the Bd. of Regents and BESE conduct the study (in collaboration with the others) and submit the report to the legislature jointly.
2. Adds the following to the list of collaborators: La. Assoc. of School Superintendents, La. Assoc. of Educators, La. Federation of Teachers, Associated Professional Educators of La., La. School Boards Assoc., the parent of a high school student selected by the BESE president, and the parent of a college student selected by the Bd. of Regents chairman.

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Adds the following to the list of collaborators: La. Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, Council for a Better La., and La. School Counselors Assoc.
2. Includes the feasibility of allowing certain individuals who receive a GED to qualify for TOPS-Tech among the issues to be studied.