

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 266

BY REPRESENTATIVE AMEDEE

TOPS: Provides relative to core curriculum requirements for initial eligibility for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5025(3)(c) and (5), relative to high school core curriculum
3 requirements for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to remove computer
4 science courses as an alternative to foreign language; to add computer science
5 courses to the elective science courses; and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. R.S. 17:5025(3)(c) and (5) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
8 follows:

9 §5025. High school core curriculum requirements; Opportunity, Performance,
10 Honors Awards

11 To be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors Award pursuant
12 to this Chapter, a student shall have successfully completed a core curriculum which
13 consists of twenty units of high school course work as follows:

14 * * *

15 (3) Science - Four Units

16 * * *

17 (c) Two units chosen from the following: Computer Science, which shall be
18 in principles, coding, and programming and may include Computer Science I;
19 Computer Science II; Fundamentals of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (Level 1);
20 Advanced JavaScript, Functional Programming, and Web Development (Level 2);

1 AP Computer Science A; AP Computer Science Principles; Computer Science Year
 2 One IB; Computer Science Year Two IB; or two units chosen from the following:
 3 Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and
 4 Agriscience II (one unit combined); Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry
 5 II; AP Environmental Science, or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics
 6 I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism, AP
 7 Physics C: Mechanics, IB Physics II, or AP Physics II; Biology II, AP Biology, or
 8 IB Biology II.

* * *

(5) Foreign Language ~~or Computer Science~~ - two units

(a) ~~Foreign Language - the two units shall be~~ 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.

(b) ~~Computer Science - the two units shall be in principles, coding, and~~
~~programming, which may include the following: Computer Science I, Computer~~
~~Science II, Fundamentals of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (Level 1), Advanced~~
~~JavaScript, Functional Programming, and Web Development (Level 2), AP~~
~~Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles, Computer Science Year One~~
~~IB, and Computer Science Year Two IB.~~

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 266 Original

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Amedee

Abstract: Revises the manner a student may satisfy the computer science requirement in the high school core curriculum required for a Taylor Opportunity for Students award.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), a college scholarship program, including initial and continuing eligibility requirements. Provides that students are required to take either two units of foreign language that are in the same language or two units of computer science.

Proposed law removes the option to take two units of computer science in lieu of a foreign language and instead adds computer science to a list of accepted science electives. Present law requires two science electives in the TOPS-Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Award core curriculum.

Proposed law is applicable to those graduating in the 2027-2028 school year and thereafter.

(Amends R.S. 17:5025(3)(c) and (5))