Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 348

BY REPRESENTATIVE GREENE

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHP: Provides relative to Taylor Opportunity Program for students awards when insufficient money to fund all eligible students is appropriated

1   AN ACT

2   To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(N), to provide relative to Taylor Opportunity Program

3   for Students awards when insufficient money to fund all eligible students is

4   appropriated by the legislature; to require the number of awards be reduced as

5   necessary; to provide relative to the procedure for such reduction; to provide

6   limitations; to provide for the adoptions of rules by the Louisiana Student Financial

7   Assistance Commission; to provide an effective date; and to provide for related

8   matters.

9   Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10   Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(N) is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

11   §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

12   *   *   *

13   N.(1) In the event the legislature appropriates insufficient money to fund all

14   awards made to students qualifying under the provisions of this Section, the number

15   of students to whom awards shall be made shall be reduced as necessary pursuant to

16   a procedure set out by rule adopted by the administering agency. The procedure

17   shall provide for such reduction to be based only on the scores on the American

18   College Test or on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, as applicable.and then on the ability

19   of each student's family to pay the student's tuition as evidenced by the expected

20   family contribution determined by using the standardized federal methodology for

1   ~~establishing student financial need. The procedure shall provide that reductions of~~

2   ~~awards made necessary by insufficient appropriations shall first eliminate the cohort~~

3   ~~of students who score lowest on the American College Test. The procedures shall~~

4   ~~provide that within that cohort of students, those whose families are most able to pay~~

5   ~~the student's tuition shall be eliminated first. After insufficient appropriations~~

6   ~~require the elimination of all students in such cohort, the procedures shall require~~

7   ~~repeating the process with those students in the next highest score cohort.~~

8   ~~(2) Among students denied their awards as provided in this Subsection, those~~

9   ~~students whose families have the least capacity to pay shall be the first to receive~~

10   ~~their awards if monies become available. Any student for whom the expected family~~

11   ~~contribution cannot be determined as provided for in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection~~

12   ~~shall be denied his award until the legislature appropriates sufficient monies to fund~~

13   ~~all awards made to students qualifying under the provisions of this Section.~~

14   *   *   *

15   Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not

16   signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature

17   by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If

18   vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become

19   effective on the day following such approval.

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)]

Greene   HB No. 348

Abstract: Relative to TOPS awards when insufficient money to fund all eligible students is appropriated by the legislature, requires the number of students to whom awards shall be made to be reduced as necessary and for such reduction to be based only on ACT/SAT scores.

Relative to Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) awards when insufficient money to fund all eligible students is appropriated by the legislature:

<u>Present law</u> provides for a reduction, as necessary, in the number of awards made and for such reduction to occur in accordance with a procedure adopted by rule by the La. Student

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

Financial Assistance Commission (the program's administering agency) in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law specifies that the procedure must provide for such reduction to be based on American College Test (ACT) scores and then on the ability of each student's family to pay the student's tuition as evidenced by the expected family contribution determined by using the standardized federal methodology for establishing student financial need.

Proposed law provides instead that the procedure must provide for such reduction to be based only on the scores on the ACT or on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), as applicable.

Present law requires that the procedure provide that reductions of awards made necessary by insufficient appropriations shall first eliminate the cohort of students who score lowest on the ACT and that within that cohort, those whose families are most able to pay the student's tuition shall be eliminated first. Provides that after insufficient appropriations require the elimination of all students in such cohort, the procedure must require repeating the process with those students in the next highest score cohort.

Proposed law deletes present law.

Present law specifies that among students denied their awards as provided by present law, those students whose families have the least capacity to pay shall be the first to receive their awards if monies become available. Provides also that any student for whom the expected family contribution cannot be determined shall be denied his award until the legislature appropriates sufficient monies to fund all awards made to qualifying students.

Proposed law deletes present law.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(N))