

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 452

BY REPRESENTATIVE ST. BLANC

TOPS: Provides for the termination of the TOPS-Tech Award beginning with the 2029-2030 award year

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5002(A)(1) and (2) and (G)(1) and 5029(B)(3)(b)(ii) and

3 (C)(introductory paragraph), to enact R.S. 17:5123, and to repeal R.S. 17:5002(D)

4 and (E)(2), 5024(A)(1)(d) and (B)(1)(d), 5026, 5027(D)(1), and 5042, relative to the

5 Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to provide for the termination of the

6 TOPS-Tech award; to provide for applicability and effectiveness; and to provide for

7 related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:5123 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §5123. Termination of the TOPS-Tech award; transitional provisions

11 A. Notwithstanding any provision of this Chapter to the contrary, the TOPS-

12 Tech award shall terminate upon the completion of the 2028-2029 award year as

13 provided in this Subsection.

14 B.(1) Students who graduate from high school through the 2026-2027 school

15 year may qualify for a TOPS-Tech award pursuant to this Chapter.

16 (2) Students who enter high school in the 2024-2025 school year or thereafter

17 shall not qualify for a TOPS-Tech award.

18 (3) Beginning with the 2029-2030 award year, the only awards provided

19 pursuant to this Chapter shall be Opportunity, Performance, and Honors awards.

1 Section 2. R.S. 17:5002(A)(1) and (2) and (G)(1) and 5029(B)(3)(b)(ii) and
2 (C)(introductory paragraph) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

3 §5002. Awards and amounts

4 A.(1) A student shall be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors;
5 ~~or TOPS-Tech~~ Award based on his academic achievement.

6 (2) The award amount shall be as provided in Subsection B ~~or D~~ of this
7 Section unless the legislature, by law, increases the award amount.

8 * * *

9 G. In lieu of the payment of tuition as provided in this Section, any student
10 participating in the program provided by R.S. 29:36.1 for persons serving in the
11 Louisiana National Guard shall receive the tuition exemption as provided therein.

12 In addition to any other payments provided for by R.S. 29:36.1:

13 (1) For any student who also meets the qualifications provided in this
14 Section for receipt of an Opportunity Award ~~or a TOPS-Tech Award~~, the state shall
15 pay on behalf of such student a sum of three hundred dollars per semester or six
16 hundred dollars per academic year to be applied toward the cost of books and other
17 instructional materials.

18 * * *

19 §5029. Alternative initial eligibility requirements

20 * * *

21 (3)

22 * * *

23 (b)

24 * * *

25 (ii) For a student qualifying for an initial ~~TOPS-Tech~~ or Opportunity Award
26 for the 2008-2009 award year or thereafter pursuant to this Subsection, the student
27 shall have a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT which is at least two
28 points higher than that required by R.S. 17:5024(B) for the particular award or an

