

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 548

BY REPRESENTATIVE AMEDEE

TOPS: Subjects students who complete approved home study programs and satisfy certain academic requirements to the same ACT requirements as graduates of public and approved nonpublic high schools for qualification for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:5029(B)(3)(a) and to enact R.S. 17:5029(B)(3)(b)(iv), relative
3 to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to provide relative to the alternate
4 eligibility requirements for students who complete approved home study programs;
5 to subject them to the same ACT requirements as graduates of public and nonpublic
6 high schools if they meet certain core curriculum and grade point average
7 requirements; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:5029(B)(3)(a) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S.
10 17:5029(B)(3)(b)(iv) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

11 §5029. Alternative initial eligibility requirements

12 * * *

13 B. A student who completes a home study program shall be eligible to
14 receive an award pursuant to this Chapter if each of the following conditions is met:

15 * * *

16 (3)(a) ~~Except as provided in Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph,~~ For a
17 student qualifying for an initial program award prior to the 2005-2006 award year,
18 the student has a composite score on the 1990 version of the ACT which is at least
19 three points higher than that required by R.S. 17:5024(B) for the particular award or

1 an equivalent concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such test or on
2 the SAT.

3 * * *

4 (b)

5 * * *

6 (iv) For a student qualifying for an initial award for the 2024-2025 award
7 year or thereafter pursuant to this Subsection, the student shall meet the requirements
8 of R.S. 17:5024 and 5025 or 5026 or meet the requirements of Items (ii) or (iii) of
9 this Subparagraph.

10 * * *

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 548 Engrossed

2024 Regular Session

Amedee

Abstract: Subjects students who complete approved home study programs and satisfy TOPS core curriculum and GPA requirements to the same ACT requirements as graduates of public and approved nonpublic high schools.

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as a merit scholarship program for students who graduate from a La. public high school or approved nonpublic high school and meet specific initial eligibility requirements, including the following academic requirements, which vary depending on award level:

- (1) Successful completion of a specific high school core curriculum.
- (2) Attainment of a minimum grade point average on such curriculum.
- (3) Attainment of a minimum ACT score.

Present law provides alternative eligibility requirements for other students, including those who complete approved home study programs and are exempt from the requirements provided in (1) and (2) above but must attain a higher ACT score.

Proposed law instead provides that home study students can either meet the criteria in (1) through (3) above or the higher ACT requirement to qualify for TOPS. Applicable to those initially qualifying for the 2024-2025 award year or thereafter.

(Amends R.S. 17:5029(B)(3)(a); Adds R.S. 17:5029(B)(3)(b)(iv))