

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE BILL NO. 589

BY REPRESENTATIVES CHANEY AND DOWNS

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP: Provides relative to the high school curriculum required for certain TOPS awards

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(e)(introductory paragraph), (viii) and (x),
3 relative to academic standards for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award;
4 to provide relative to the high school core curriculum requirements for certain
5 students to be eligible for an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors award; to provide
6 applicability; to provide effectiveness; to provide an effective date; and to provide
7 for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(e)(introductory paragraph), (viii) and (x) are hereby
10 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

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

12 A.(1) As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, the
13 state shall financially assist any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in a public
14 college or university in this state or a regionally accredited independent college or
15 university in the state that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent
16 Colleges or Universities, hereafter in this Chapter referred to collectively as "eligible
17 colleges or universities", to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or, as provided
18 by this Subsection, skill or occupational training as defined by the Board of Regents,
19 including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a
20 nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the qualifications of

1 Subparagraph (b), (c), or (d) of this Paragraph and all of the applicable following
2 qualifications:

3 * * *

4 (e) Except as otherwise provided by this Section and through the 2006-2007
5 school year, has successfully completed at least sixteen and one-half units of high
6 school course work, which constitutes a core curriculum, and meets standards for
7 admission to the desired college or university. Except as otherwise provided by this
8 Section and beginning with the 2007-2008 school year through the 2012-2013 school
9 year, meets standards for admission to the desired college or university and has
10 successfully completed at least seventeen and one-half units of high school course
11 work as permitted by this Subparagraph, which constitutes a core curriculum.
12 Except as otherwise provided by this Section and beginning with the 2013-2014
13 school year and thereafter, meets the standards for admissions to the desired college
14 or university and has successfully completed at least nineteen units of high school
15 course work as permitted by this Subparagraph, which constitutes a core curriculum.
16 For students qualifying under Subparagraph (A)(1)(c) of this Section, the core
17 curriculum requirements of this Subparagraph shall become effective beginning with
18 the high school graduating class of the year 1998, except that the core curriculum
19 requirement for a Performance Award shall be waived for any student graduating
20 during the 1997-1998 school year who is certified as having graduated within the top
21 five percent of his graduating class at a Louisiana public high school or nonpublic
22 high school which is approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
23 Education. Except as otherwise provided by this Section, the core curriculum shall
24 be defined as follows:

25 * * *

26 (viii) World History, Western Civilization, or World Geography (one unit
27 through the 2012-2013 school year); ~~two units beginning with the 2013-2014 school~~
28 ~~year and thereafter)~~ World History, Western Civilization, World Geography or

World Geography and that beginning with the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter a student must take two units from among such courses.

Proposed law (in addition to other curriculum requirements) retains present law requirements through the 2012-2013 school year. Provides that beginning with the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter a student must take two units of World History, Western Civilization, World Geography, or History of Religion.

Present law (in addition to other curriculum requirements) provides that a student must take Fine Arts Survey (one unit or substitute two units of performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or substitute two units of visual art courses; or substitute two units of studio art courses; or substitute one unit as an elective from among the other TOPS curriculum requirements.

Proposed law (in addition to other curriculum requirements) retains present law requirements through the 2012-2013 school year. Provides that beginning with the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter, a student must take Fine Arts Survey (one unit or substitute one unit of a performance course in music, dance, or theater, or substitute one unit of a visual art course; or substitute one unit of a studio art course. Proposed law deletes the present law option for the student to substitute one unit as an elective from among the other TOPS curriculum requirements.

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

(Amends R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(e)(introductory paragraph), (viii) and (x))