Regular Session, 2012

ACT No. 215

HOUSE BILL NO. 945

BY REPRESENTATIVES HENRY BURNS, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, ANDERS, ARMES, ARNOLD, BADON, BARRAS, BARROW, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, STUART BISHOP, WESLEY BISHOP, BROADWATER, BROSSETT, BROWN, BURFORD, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, CHANEY, CONNICK, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DIXON, FOIL, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GREENE, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARRIS, HARRISON, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HONORE, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, GIROD JACKSON, KATRINA JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, KLECKLEY, NANCY LANDRY, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LIGI, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MACK, MILLER, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, ORTEGO, PONTI, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, RICHARDSON, RITCHIE, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, ST. GERMAIN, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THIERRY, THOMPSON, WHITNEY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, PATRICK WILLIAMS, AND WILLMOTT AND SENATORS ADLEY, APPEL, BROOME, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GUILLORY, JOHNS, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD, AND WHITE

1	AN ACT
2	To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(b)(i), (c)(i), (d)(i), and (4)(a)(iii), (B)(3)(a),
3	(P)(1)(c), (2)(b), (3)(b), and (4)(b), (Q)(1)(d), and (V)(1)(c), relative to the Taylor
4	Opportunity Program for Students; to provide for initial award eligibility and
5	continuing eligibility for certain students who reenlist in the United States Armed
6	Forces and maintain continuous active duty under certain circumstances; to extend
7	the length of time required to claim or maintain an award for certain students on
8	active duty under certain circumstances; to provide for applicability; to provide an
9	effective date; and to provide for related matters.
10	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
1	Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(b)(i), (c)(i), (d)(i), and (4)(a)(iii), (B)(3)(a),
12	(P)(1)(c), (2)(b), (3)(b), and (4)(b), (Q)(1)(d), and (V)(1)(c) are hereby amended and
13	reenacted to read as follows:

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1 §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration 2 A.(1) As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, the 3 state shall financially assist any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in a public 4 college or university in this state or a regionally accredited independent college or 5 university in the state that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent 6 Colleges or Universities, hereafter in this Chapter referred to collectively as "eligible 7 colleges or universities", to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or, as provided 8 by this Subsection, skill or occupational training as defined by the Board of Regents, 9 including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a 10 nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the qualifications of 11 Subparagraph (b), (c), or (d) of this Paragraph and all of the applicable following 12 qualifications:

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14 (b)(i) Has been certified as provided in Subsection D of this Section to have 15 graduated from a public high school or a nonpublic high school which has been 16 approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, has a 17 minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale, has a 18 composite score on the 1990 version of the American College Test which is at least 19 equal to or higher than the state's average composite score, rounded to the nearest 20 whole number, reported for the prior year but never less than twenty or an equivalent 21 concordant value on an enhanced or revised version of such test or on the Scholastic 22 Aptitude Test, and, unless granted an exception for cause by the administering 23 agency, has enrolled in an eligible college or university as a first-time freshman not 24 later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately 25 following the first anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high 26 school or, if the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one year after 27 graduating from high school, has enrolled in an eligible college or university as a 28 first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or 29 sessions, immediately following the fifth anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high school; however, effective for the 1996-1997 school year and 30

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1	thereafter, if, on or prior to the fifth anniversary of the date that the student graduated
2	from high school, the student reenlists in the United States Armed Forces and
3	maintains continuous active duty, the five-year period shall be extended to the
4	semester immediately following the one-year anniversary of the student's separation
5	from active duty service. As distinguished from all other students qualifying for this
6	program, a student who meets the requirements of this Subparagraph shall be the
7	recipient of an "Opportunity Award" for the purposes of this program.
8	* * *
9	(c)(i)(aa) Has been certified as provided in Subsection D of this Section to
10	have graduated from a public high school or nonpublic high school which has been
11	approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, has enrolled,
12	unless granted an exception for cause by the administering agency, in an eligible
13	college or university as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding
14	summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the
15	date that the student graduated from high school or, if the student joins the United
16	States Armed Forces within one year after graduating from high school, has enrolled
17	in an eligible college or university as a first-time freshman not later than the
18	semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the fifth
19	anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high school, except as
20	provided in Subitem (bb) of this Item, has achieved a minimum cumulative grade
21	point average of 3.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale, and has a composite score on the
22	1990 version of the American College Test of twenty-three or higher or an
23	equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised version of such test or on
24	the Scholastic Aptitude Test. As distinguished from all other students qualifying for
25	this program, a student who meets the requirements of this Subparagraph shall
26	receive and be recognized as the recipient of a "Performance Award" for the
27	purposes of this program.
28	(bb) If the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one year after
29	graduating from high school, has enrolled in an eligible college or university as a
30	first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or

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1	sessions, immediately following the fifth anniversary of the date that the student
2	graduated from high school; however, effective for the 1996-1997 school year and
3	thereafter, if, on or prior to the fifth anniversary of the date that the student graduates
4	from high school, the student reenlists in the United States Armed Forces and
5	maintains continuous active duty, the five-year period shall be extended to the
6	semester immediately following the one-year anniversary of the student's separation
7	from active duty service.
8	* * *
9	(d)(i) Has been certified as provided in Subsection D of this Section to have
10	graduated from a public high school or nonpublic high school which has been
11	approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education with a
12	minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.50 on a 4.00 scale and a score of
13	twenty-seven or higher on the 1990 version of the American College Test or an
14	equivalent concordant value on any enhanced or revised version of such test or on
15	the Scholastic Aptitude Test, and, unless granted an exception for cause by the
16	administering agency, has enrolled in an eligible college or university as a first-time
17	freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions,
18	immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student graduated
19	from high school or, if the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one
20	year after graduating from high school, has enrolled in an eligible college or
21	university as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer
22	semesters or sessions, immediately following the fifth anniversary of the date that
23	the student graduated from high school; however, effective for the 1996-1997 school
24	year and thereafter, if, on or prior to the fifth anniversary of the date that the student
25	graduated from high school, the student reenlists in the United States Armed Forces
26	and maintains continuous active duty, the five-year period shall be extended to the
27	semester immediately following the one-year anniversary of the student's separation
28	from active duty service. As distinguished from all other students qualifying for this

program, a student who meets the requirements of this Subparagraph shall receive

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and be recognized as the recipient of an "Honors Award" for the purposes of this program.

* *

(4) To maintain continued state payment of an amount equal to tuition and other amounts pursuant to an award under this Chapter once enrolled in college a student shall meet all of the following:

(a)

* * *

9 (iii) If at any time a student fails to maintain the cumulative grade point 10 average required for continuation in the program or as of the end of any semester or 11 term during the academic year fails to make steady academic progress as defined by 12 the administering agency, such student shall become ineligible for further payments. 13 Payments limited to those provided in Paragraph (A)(2) of this Section regardless of 14 whether the originally granted award was an Opportunity, Performance, or Honors 15 Award may be reinstated upon attainment of the grade point average required by this 16 Paragraph for a student to maintain continued state payments once enrolled in 17 college and the standards for steady academic progress as defined by the 18 administering agency, provided that the student has maintained other continuation 19 requirements and the period of ineligibility did not persist for more than two years 20 from the date of loss of eligibility. If this two-year period is interrupted due to a 21 student's active duty service in the United States Armed Forces, the two-year period 22 shall be extended for a length of time equal to the student's active duty service, not 23 to exceed four years, unless the student reenlists in the United States Armed Forces 24 and maintains continuous active duty, in which case the period shall be extended for 25 a length of time equal to the student's active duty service; or unless the student is 26 granted an exception for cause by the administering agency. 27

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(3) To maintain continued state payment of an amount equal to tuition pursuant to a TOPS-Tech Award once enrolled in an institution, a student shall meet all of the following:

4 (a) Make steady academic progress as defined by the administering agency 5 toward completion of the requirements of the program in which enrolled earning not 6 less than the minimum number of hours of credit required for full-time standing or 7 the required number of hours needed to complete the program's requirements. If at 8 any time a student fails to maintain the cumulative grade point average required for 9 continuation in the program or as of the end of any term during the school year fails 10 to make steady academic progress as defined by the administering agency, the 11 student shall become ineligible for further payments. Payments may be reinstated 12 upon attainment of the grade point average required for continuation of the original 13 award and the standards for steady academic progress as defined by the 14 administering agency, provided that the student has maintained other continuation 15 requirements and the period of ineligibility did not persist for more than one year 16 from the date of loss of eligibility. If this one-year period is interrupted due to a 17 student's active duty service in the United States Armed Forces, the one-year period 18 shall be extended for a length of time equal to the student's active duty service, not 19 to exceed four years, unless the student reenlists in the United States Armed Forces 20 and maintains continuous active duty, in which case the period shall be extended for 21 a length of time equal to the student's active duty service; or unless the student is 22 granted an exception for cause by the administering agency.

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P.(1) Notwithstanding any initial student eligibility requirement of this Chapter to the contrary, a student shall be eligible to receive a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Section provided each of the applicable following conditions are met:

(c) Unless granted an exception for cause by the administering agency, the
student has enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution as a first-time

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1 freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, 2 immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student graduated 3 from high school or, if the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one 4 year after graduating from high school, has enrolled in a Louisiana public 5 postsecondary institution as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, 6 excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the fifth anniversary 7 of the date that the student graduated from high school; however, effective for the 8 1996-1997 school year and thereafter, if, on or prior to the fifth anniversary of the 9 date that the student graduated from high school, the student reenlists in the United 10 States Armed Forces and maintains continuous active duty, the five-year period shall 11 be extended to the semester immediately following the one-year anniversary of the 12 student's separation from active duty service. 13 * 14 (2) Notwithstanding any initial student eligibility requirement of this Chapter 15 to the contrary, a student shall be eligible to receive an Opportunity Award pursuant 16 to this Section provided each of the following conditions are met: 17 18 (b) Unless granted an exception for cause by the administering agency, the 19 student has enrolled in an eligible college or university as a first-time freshman not 20 later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately 21 following the first anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high 22 school or, if the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one year after 23 graduating from high school, has enrolled in an eligible college or university as a 24 first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or 25 sessions, immediately following the fifth anniversary of the date that the student 26 graduated from high school; however, effective for the 1996-1997 school year and 27 thereafter, if, on or prior to the fifth anniversary of the date that the student graduated 28 from high school, the student reenlists in the United States Armed Forces and 29 maintains continuous active duty, the five-year period shall be extended to the

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1	semester immediately following the one-year anniversary of the student's separation
2	from active duty service.
3	* * *
4	(3) Notwithstanding any initial student eligibility requirement of this Chapter
5	to the contrary, a student shall be eligible to receive a Performance Award pursuant
6	to this Section provided each of the following conditions are met:
7	* * *
8	(b) Unless granted an exception for cause by the administering agency, the
9	student has enrolled in an eligible college or university as a first-time freshman not
10	later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately
11	following the first anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high
12	school or, if the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one year after
13	graduating from high school, has enrolled in an eligible college or university as a
14	first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or
15	sessions, immediately following the fifth anniversary of the date that the student
16	graduated from high school; however, effective for the 1996-1997 school year and
17	thereafter, if, on or prior to the fifth anniversary of the date that the student graduated
18	from high school, the student reenlists in the United States Armed Forces and
19	maintains continuous active duty, the five-year period shall be extended to the
20	semester immediately following the one-year anniversary of the student's separation
21	from active duty service.
22	* * *
23	(4) Notwithstanding any initial student eligibility requirement of this Chapter
24	to the contrary, a student shall be eligible to receive an Honors Award pursuant to
25	this Section provided each of the following conditions are met:
26	* * *
27	(b) Unless granted an exception for cause by the administering agency, the
28	student has enrolled in an eligible college or university as a first-time freshman not
29	later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately
30	following the first anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high

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1	school or, if the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one year after
2	graduating from high school, has enrolled in an eligible college or university as a
3	first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or
4	sessions, immediately following the fifth anniversary of the date that the student
5	graduated from high school; however, effective for the 1996-1997 school year and
6	thereafter, if, on or prior to the fifth anniversary of the date that the student graduated
7	from high school, the student reenlists in the United States Armed Forces and
8	maintains continuous active duty, the five-year period shall be extended to the
9	semester immediately following the one-year anniversary of the student's separation
10	from active duty service.
11	* * *
12	Q.(1) Notwithstanding any initial student eligibility requirement of this
13	Chapter to the contrary, a student shall be eligible to receive a TOPS-Tech Award
14	pursuant to this Section provided each of the following conditions are met:
15	* * *
16	(d) Unless granted an exception for cause by the administering agency, the
16 17	(d) Unless granted an exception for cause by the administering agency, the student has enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution as a first-time
17	student has enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution as a first-time
17 18	student has enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions,
17 18 19	student has enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student's initial
17 18 19 20	student has enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student's initial application is received by the administering agency or, if the student joins the United
17 18 19 20 21	student has enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student's initial application is received by the administering agency or, if the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one year after completing the home study program, has
 17 18 19 20 21 22 	student has enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student's initial application is received by the administering agency or, if the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one year after completing the home study program, has enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution as a first-time freshman not
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 	student has enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student's initial application is received by the administering agency or, if the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one year after completing the home study program, has enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 	student has enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student's initial application is received by the administering agency or, if the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one year after completing the home study program, has enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the fifth anniversary of the date that the student's initial application is
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 	student has enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student's initial application is received by the administering agency or, if the student joins the United States Armed Forces within one year after completing the home study program, has enrolled in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the fifth anniversary of the date that the student's initial application is received by the administering agency; <u>however, effective for the 1996-1997 school</u>

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1	to the semester immediately following the one-year anniversary of the student's
2	separation from active duty service.
3	* * *
4	V.(1) Notwithstanding any initial student eligibility requirement of this
5	Chapter to the contrary, a student shall be eligible to receive a TOPS-Tech Award
6	pursuant to this Section provided each of the following conditions are met:
7	* * *
8	(c)(i) If graduating from a high school and unless granted an exception for
9	cause by the administering agency, the student has enrolled in an eligible college or
10	university as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer
11	semesters or sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the
12	student graduated from high school or, if the student joins the United States armed
13	forces Armed Forces within one year after the date that the student graduated from
14	high school, has enrolled in an eligible college or university as a first-time freshman
15	not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately
16	following the fifth anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high
17	school; however, effective for the 1996-1997 school year and thereafter, if, on or
18	prior to the fifth anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high school,
19	the student reenlists in the United States Armed Forces and maintains continuous
20	active duty, the five-year period shall be extended to the semester immediately
21	following the one-year anniversary of the student's separation from active duty
22	service.
23	(ii) If a completer of a home study program approved by the State Board of
24	Elementary and Secondary Education and unless granted an exception for cause by
25	the administering agency, the student has enrolled in an eligible college or university
26	as a first-time freshman not later than the semester, excluding summer semesters or
27	sessions, immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student
28	completed a home study program approved by the State Board of Elementary and
29	Secondary Education or, if the student joins the United States armed forces Armed
30	Forces within one year after the date that the student completed a home study

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1	program approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, has
2	enrolled in an eligible college or university as a first-time freshman not later than the
3	semester, excluding summer semesters or sessions, immediately following the fifth
4	anniversary of the date that the student completed a home study program approved
5	by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; however, effective for
6	the 1996-1997 school year and thereafter, if, on or prior to the fifth anniversary of
7	the date that the student completed the home study program, the student reenlists in
8	the United States Armed Forces and maintains continuous active duty, the five-year
9	period shall be extended to the semester immediately following the one-year
10	anniversary of the student's separation from active duty service.
11	* * *
12	Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
13	signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
14	by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
15	vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
16	effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____

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