

SENATE BILL NO. 98

BY SENATORS NEVERS AND THOMPSON AND REPRESENTATIVES BADON,  
BROADWATER, HENRY BURNS, CARMODY, LEBAS, LORUSSO,  
MILLER, MORENO, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, SEABAUGH, SMITH,  
ST. GERMAIN, STOKES AND WOODRUFF

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact the introductory paragraph of R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1) and (b)(ii)(bb),  
3 (c)(ii)(bb), and (d)(ii)(bb), the introductory paragraph of (B)(2)(c) and (C)(2)(e),  
4 relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to provide with respect to  
5 the method used to calculate the grade point average required for program awards;  
6 to provide that a five-point scale shall be used to calculate the grade point average  
7 for certain honors, articulated, and gifted and talented courses; to provide that the  
8 administering agency of the program shall define skill or occupational training for  
9 which an eligible student may use a program award; to specify certain courses  
10 among those for which the administering agency of the program may update names  
11 and establish equivalencies; and to provide for related matters.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. The introductory paragraph of R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1) and (b)(ii)(bb),  
14 (c)(ii)(bb), and (d)(ii)(bb), the introductory paragraph of (B)(2)(c) and (C)(2)(e) are hereby  
15 amended and reenacted to read as follows:

16 §3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration  
17 A.(1) As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, the  
18 state shall financially assist any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in a public  
19 college or university in this state or a regionally accredited independent college or  
20 university in the state that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent  
21 Colleges ~~or~~ **and** Universities, hereafter in this Chapter referred to collectively as  
22 "eligible colleges or universities", to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or,  
23 as provided by this Subsection, skill or occupational training as defined by the ~~Board~~  
24 ~~of Regents,~~ **administering agency** including a vocational or technical education  
25 certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who

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

3 \* \* \*

4 (b) \* \* \*

5 (ii) \* \* \*

6 (bb) Beginning with students graduating in the 2017-2018 school year and  
7 thereafter, the calculation of the minimum cumulative grade point average specified  
8 in Item (i) of this Subparagraph shall utilize a five-point scale for grades earned in  
9 certain Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, gifted **and**  
10 **talented** courses, **honors courses, articulated courses for college credit,** and dual  
11 enrollment courses as approved by the Board of Regents and the State Board of  
12 Elementary and Secondary Education, which may result in a student earning a  
13 cumulative grade point average that exceeds 4.00. For such courses, five quality  
14 points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "A", four quality points shall be assigned  
15 to a letter grade of "B", three quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "C",  
16 two quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "D", and zero quality points  
17 shall be assigned to a letter grade of "F".

18 (c) \* \* \*

19 (ii) \* \* \*

20 (bb) Beginning with students graduating in the 2017-2018 school year and  
21 thereafter, the calculation of the minimum cumulative grade point average specified  
22 in Item (i) of this Subparagraph shall utilize a five-point scale for grades earned in  
23 certain Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, gifted **and**  
24 **talented** courses, **honors courses, articulated courses for college credit,** and dual  
25 enrollment courses as approved by the Board of Regents and the State Board of  
26 Elementary and Secondary Education, which may result in a student earning a  
27 cumulative grade point average that exceeds 4.00. For such courses, five quality  
28 points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "A", four quality points shall be assigned  
29 to a letter grade of "B", three quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "C",  
30 two quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "D", and zero quality points

1 shall be assigned to a letter grade of "F".

2 \* \* \*

3 (d) \* \* \*

4 (ii) \* \* \*

5 (bb) Beginning with students graduating in the 2017-2018 school year and  
6 thereafter, the calculation of the minimum cumulative grade point average specified  
7 in Item (i) of this Subparagraph shall utilize a five-point scale for grades earned in  
8 certain Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, gifted **and**  
9 **talented** courses, **honors courses, articulated courses for college credit,** and dual  
10 enrollment courses as approved by the Board of Regents and the State Board of  
11 Elementary and Secondary Education, which may result in a student earning a  
12 cumulative grade point average that exceeds 4.00. For such courses, five quality  
13 points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "A", four quality points shall be assigned  
14 to a letter grade of "B", three quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "C",  
15 two quality points shall be assigned to a letter grade of "D", and zero quality points  
16 shall be assigned to a letter grade of "F".

17 \* \* \*

18 B.

19 \* \* \*

20 (2) As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for  
21 Students, for students graduating from high school through the 1999-2000  
22 school year the state shall award an amount determined by the administering  
23 agency to equal the actual cost of tuition of any student who enrolls on a full-  
24 time basis in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution to pursue skill or  
25 occupational training, including a vocational or technical education  
26 certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, and  
27 who meets the following qualifications and all other applicable qualifications  
28 of this Chapter and for students graduating from high school during the 2000-  
29 2001 school year and thereafter the state shall award an amount determined  
30 by the administering agency in accordance with the provisions of

1 Subparagraph (f) of this Paragraph for any student who enrolls on a full-time  
 2 basis in an eligible college or university as defined in Subsection A of this  
 3 Section to pursue skill or occupational training as defined by the Board of  
 4 Regents, including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma  
 5 program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the  
 6 following qualifications and all other applicable qualifications of this  
 7 Chapter:

8 \* \* \*

9 (c) Except as otherwise provided by this Section, has successfully  
 10 completed a core curriculum, and meets standards for admission to the  
 11 desired eligible college or university. The core curriculum specified in  
 12 Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph shall be effective only for high school  
 13 graduates through the 2001-2002 school year; thereafter, a student shall meet  
 14 the core curriculum requirements as specified in this Subparagraph. Except  
 15 as otherwise provided by this Section, a student may qualify for a TOPS-  
 16 Tech Award by meeting the core curriculum requirements of Subparagraph  
 17 (A)(1)(e) **or (f)** of this Section or the core curriculum defined as follows:

18 \* \* \*

19 C.

20 \* \* \*

21 (2) Except as otherwise provided by this Paragraph, the  
 22 administering agency by rule shall provide for:

23 \* \* \*

24 (e) Guidelines and procedures by which the administering agency,  
 25 subject to prior approval by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary  
 26 Education, may update the course name and establish course equivalencies  
 27 for any course included in the definition of core curriculum provided by this  
 28 Section, **including necessary changes to course names and equivalencies**  
 29 **for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses as**  
 30 **prescribed by the College Board or the International Baccalaureate**

1           **Foundation**. The guidelines and procedures shall include but not be limited  
2           to a requirement that any change in a course name and the establishment of  
3           any course equivalency be done by rule adopted by the administering agency  
4           and a requirement that prior to issuing a notice of intent to consider any such  
5           rule the administering agency shall consult with and seek the written  
6           comments and recommendations of the Board of Regents on making the  
7           name change or establishing the course equivalency.

\*       \*       \*

9           Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
10          signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
11          by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
12          vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
13          effective on the day following such approval.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_