

Regular Session, 2008

SENATE BILL NO. 706

BY SENATOR CROWE

TOPS. Creates the TOPS-Tech Plus Award. (7/1/09)

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AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(H)(2) and to enact R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(4), relative to the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students; to provide for the TOPS-Tech Plus Award; to provide relative to initial and continuation eligibility requirements; to provide relative to award applications; to provide for award amounts; to provide for the length of eligibility; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(H)(2) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(4) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

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

* * *

B.

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(4)(a) Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year and thereafter, as part of the Louisiana Tuition Opportunity Program for Students, any student who has been awarded and maintained eligibility for a TOPS-Tech Award and who

requirements established in present law for Opportunity Award recipients.

Proposed law limits eligibility of the TOPS-Tech Plus Award to four semesters or an equivalent number of units in an eligible institution which operates on a schedule based on units other than semesters, unless an extension is granted by the administering agency in accordance with its rules.

Proposed law requires the office of student financial assistance to adopt rules for the administration of the TOPS-Tech Plus Award.

Effective July 1, 2009.

(Adds R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(4) and (H)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Requires TOPS-Tech Award recipients to earn an associate degree to be eligible for the TOPS-Tech Plus Award.
2. Deletes specific application deadline and requires the office of student financial assistance to provide by rule for program administration.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill.

1. Changes effective date from signature of the governor to July 1, 2009.