

2014 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SB126 by Senator Ben Nevers**TOPS: Provides relative to TOPS. (gov sig) (EN INCREASE GF EX See Note)****Current Status (as of 6/23/2014 1:29 pm): Signed by the Governor - Act 737**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chamber</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Action</u>
06/19	S		Effective date 6/19/2014.
06/19	S		Signed by the Governor. Becomes Act No. 737.
06/01	S	87	Sent to the Governor by the Secretary of the Senate.
05/30	H	108	Signed by the Speaker of the House.
05/30	S	49	Enrolled. Signed by the President of the Senate.
05/29	S	16	Amendments proposed by the House read and concurred in by a vote of 35 yeas and 0 nays.
05/28	S	39	Received from the House with amendments.
05/28	H	36	Read third time by title, amended, roll called on final passage, yeas 94, nays 0. Finally passed, ordered to the Senate.
05/22	H		Scheduled for floor debate on 05/28/2014.
05/15	H	10	Read by title, passed to 3rd reading.
05/14	H	41	Reported without Legislative Bureau amendments.
05/13	H	38	Reported favorably (12-0). Referred to the Legislative Bureau.
03/27	H	3	Read by title, under the rules, referred to the Committee on Education.
03/26	H	2	Received in the House from the Senate, read by title, lies over under the rules.
03/26	S	14	Rules suspended. Read by title, passed by a vote of 34 yeas and 0 nays, and sent to the House. Motion to reconsider tabled.
03/25	S	15	Read by title. Committee amendments read and adopted. Ordered engrossed and passed to third reading and final passage.
03/24	S	8	Reported with amendments.
03/10	S	13	Introduced in the Senate; read by title. Rules suspended. Read second time and referred to the Committee on Education.
02/25	S		Prefiled and under the rules provisionally referred to the Committee on Education.

Authors:

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Available Documents:**Text**SB126 Enrolled <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=910323>SB126 Engrossed <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=884065>

SB126 Original <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=875286>

Amendments

House Floor Amendment, #5957, Cromer, Adopted <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=909540>

House Floor Amendment, #5871, Broadwater, Adopted <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=909090>

Senate Committee Amendment, #1134, EDUC, Adopted <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=883563>

Digests

Summary of House Amendments to SB126 <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=909886>

Digest of SB126 Engrossed <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=885657>

Digest of SB126 Original <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=875289>

Notes

Fiscal Note - SB126 Enrolled <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=913145>

Fiscal Note - SB126 Engrossed With House Floor Amendments <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=910006>

Fiscal Note - SB126 Engrossed <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=886434>

Fiscal Note - SB126 Original <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=883482>

Votes

Senate Vote on SB 126, CONCUR (#1508) <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=910008>

House Vote on SB 126, FINAL PASSAGE (#1307) <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=909795>

Senate Vote on SB 126, FINAL PASSAGE (#144) <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=885883>

SENATE BILL NO. 126

BY SENATORS NEVERS AND THOMPSON AND REPRESENTATIVE COX

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(e)(x) and (f)(vi) and (B)(2)(c)(introductory
3 paragraph), (vi), and (x)(aa)(aaa) and 3048.5(B) and (D) through (G) and to repeal
4 R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(2)(c)(v), relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students;
5 to provide relative to the high school core curriculum required for initial eligibility
6 for certain program awards; to provide relative to the TOPS-Tech Early Start Award;
7 to provide for purpose; to provide that certain courses offered at public and
8 nonpublic postsecondary education institutions and by certain training providers may
9 be funded by such award; to provide for the selection and approval of such training
10 providers; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for eligibility; to provide
11 for reporting; and to provide for related matters.

12 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

13 Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(A)(1)(e)(x) and (f)(vi) and (B)(2)(c)(introductory
14 paragraph), (vi), and (x)(aa)(aaa) and 3048.5(B) and (D) through (G) are hereby amended
15 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 and Universities, hereafter in this Chapter referred to collectively as
22 "eligible colleges and universities", to pursue an academic undergraduate degree or,

as provided by this Subsection, skill or occupational training as defined by the Board of Regents, including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the qualifications of Subparagraph (b), (c), or (d) of this Paragraph and all of the applicable following qualifications:

* * *

(e) Except as otherwise provided by this Section and through the 2006-2007 school year, has successfully completed at least sixteen and one-half units of high school course work, which constitutes a core curriculum, and meets standards for admission to the desired college or university. Except as otherwise provided by this Section and beginning with the 2007-2008 school year through the 2012-2013 school year, meets standards for admission to the desired college or university and has successfully completed at least seventeen and one-half units of high school course work as permitted by this Subparagraph, which constitutes a core curriculum. Except as otherwise provided by this Section and beginning with the 2013-2014 school year through the 2016-2017 school year, meets the standards for admission to the desired college or university and has successfully completed at least nineteen units of high school course work as permitted by this Subparagraph, which constitutes a core curriculum. For students qualifying under Subparagraph (A)(1)(c) of this Section, the core curriculum requirements of this Subparagraph shall become effective beginning with the high school graduating class of 1998, except that the core curriculum requirement for a Performance Award shall be waived for any student graduating during the 1997-1998 school year who is certified as having graduated within the top five percent of his graduating class at a Louisiana public high school or nonpublic high school which is approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Except as otherwise provided by this Section, the core curriculum shall be defined as follows:

* * *

(x) Fine Arts Survey (one unit; or through the 2012-2013 school year 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 subjects listed in this core curriculum); beginning with the 2013-2014 school year and thereafter, 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; or substitute one unit of drafting).

* * *

(f) Except as otherwise provided by this Section and beginning with students graduating in the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter, meets the standards for admission to the desired college or university and has successfully completed a core curriculum which consists of nineteen units of high school course work as follows:

* * *

(vi) Art - One unit

One unit chosen from the following: Performance course in Music, Dance, or Theatre; Fine Arts Survey; Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Music I, II, III, and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; Speech III and Speech IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art: 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory; Film Study I IB; Film Study II IB; Music I IB; Music II IB; Art Design III IB; Art Design IV IB; or Theatre I IB; or Drafting.

* * *

B.

* * *

(2) As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, for students graduating from high school through the 1999-2000 school year the state shall award an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the actual cost of tuition of any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution to pursue skill or occupational training, including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the following qualifications and all other

1 applicable qualifications of this Chapter and for students graduating from high
2 school during the 2000-2001 school year and thereafter the state shall award an
3 amount determined by the administering agency in accordance with the provisions
4 of Subparagraph (f) of this Paragraph for any student who enrolls on a full-time basis
5 in an eligible college or university as defined in Subsection A of this Section to
6 pursue skill or occupational training as defined by the Board of Regents, including
7 a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic
8 undergraduate degree, and who meets the following qualifications and all other
9 applicable qualifications of this Chapter:

10 * * *

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

20 * * *

21 (vi) Earth Science, Environmental Science, Agriscience I and II (both for one
22 unit), Physical Science, Integrated Science, Biology II, Chemistry or Applied
23 Chemistry, Chemistry II, Physics, Physics II, or Physics for Technology (~~one unit~~
24 two units).

25 * * *

26 (x) Remaining core courses shall be selected from one of the following
27 options:

28 (aa) OPTION 1, consisting of four units as follows:

29 (aaa) Fine Arts Survey (one unit) or drafting (one unit) or substitute two
30 units of performance courses in music, dance, or theater; or substitute two units of

1 visual art courses; or substitute two units of studio art courses; or a course from the
2 career and technical program of studies that is approved by the State Board of
3 Elementary and Secondary Education; or substitute one unit as an elective from
4 among the other subjects listed in this core curriculum.

5 * * *

6 §3048.5. TOPS-Tech Early Start Award; purpose; eligibility; award amounts
7 limitations; administration; implementation; reports

8 * * *

9 B.(1) A TOPS-Tech Early Start Award may be used to fund any technical
10 or applied course leading to an Industry-Based Certification, a Certificate of
11 Applied Science, and a Certificate of Technical Sciences offered at a Louisiana
12 public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution ~~for the purpose of pursuing~~
13 ~~an industry-based occupational or vocational education credential as defined by the~~
14 ~~Board of Regents~~ or by any Louisiana training provider recognized by the
15 Louisiana Workforce Commission and approved by the State Board of
16 Elementary and Secondary Education as provided in Paragraph (4) of this
17 Subsection when such credential ~~also meets all of the following conditions~~
18 certification or certificate is approved by the Workforce Investment Council as
19 meeting the following requirements:

20 (a) Is identified by the Occupation Forecasting Conference as a credential for
21 an occupation in top demand in Louisiana.

22 (b) Is recognized by the State Industry-Based Certification Leadership
23 Council.

24 (c) ~~Is approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education~~
25 ~~and by the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges.~~

26 (2) An eligible recipient may receive a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award for
27 two semesters during the eleventh grade and two semesters during the twelfth grade,
28 excluding summer sessions.

29 (3) The administering agency, on behalf of a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award
30 recipient, shall pay to the Louisiana postsecondary education institution in which the

1 student is enrolled in an eligible program of studies or a training program provider
2 an amount of one hundred fifty dollars for each three credit-hour or equivalent time
3 course taken by the student, not to exceed two such courses per high school semester
4 for an eleventh-grade student and two such courses per high school semester for a
5 twelfth-grade student.

6 (4)(a) By January thirty-first annually, the State Board of Elementary
7 and Secondary Education shall determine which training program providers it
8 approves for the academic year that begins in the fall of that year.

9 (b) For the 2014-2015 academic year, the number of training program
10 providers at which a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award may be used shall be
11 limited to five providers as selected by the State Board of Elementary and
12 Secondary Education.

13 (c) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall
14 promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative
15 Procedure Act to implement the provisions of this Paragraph.

16 (5) Implementation of the provisions of this Section shall be subject to the
17 appropriation of funds for this purpose.

18 * * *

19 D. To be eligible for an initial TOPS-Tech Early Start Award, a student shall
20 meet each of the following conditions and comply with other applicable provisions
21 of this Section and administering agency rules:

22 (1) Be in the eleventh or twelfth grade in a Louisiana public school.

23 (2) Have prepared a five-year education and career plan, including a sequence
24 of related courses with a career focus as provided by Subpart A-1 of Part III of
25 Chapter 1 of this Title.

26 (3) Have a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses
27 attempted of not less than 2.0 when calculated on a 4.0 scale.

28 ~~(4) Have at least the minimum scores required to pass the mathematics and~~
29 ~~English portions of the graduation exit exam established by the State Board of~~
30 ~~Elementary and Secondary Education.~~

1 ~~(5)~~ Score at least fifteen on the English subsection and fifteen on the
2 mathematics subsection of the ACT PLAN assessment administered as part of
3 Louisiana's Educational Planning and Assessment System.

4 E. To maintain continuing eligibility for a TOPS-Tech Early Start Award,
5 a student must meet each of the following conditions and comply with other
6 applicable provisions of this Section and administering agency rules:

7 (1) Be a student in good standing in a Louisiana public high school.

8 (2) Maintain a cumulative high school grade point average on all courses
9 attempted of not less than 2.0 when calculated on a 4.0 scale.

10 (3) Be a student in good standing while enrolled in a Louisiana public or
11 ~~nonpublic~~ postsecondary education institution or training program and continue
12 to pursue one or more courses leading to an industry-based credential.

13 F.(1) The provisions of this Section shall be administered by the Louisiana
14 Student Financial Assistance Commission, herein referred to as the "administering
15 agency". Except as otherwise provided by this Section, the authority granted to and
16 limitations placed on the administering agency by R.S. 17:3048.1 relative to
17 administering other awards pursuant to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students
18 shall be deemed to apply also to the administration of the TOPS-Tech Early Start
19 Award.

20 (2) The agency shall adopt, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure
21 Act, rules to implement and administer the provisions of this Section. Such rules
22 shall include but not be limited to necessary guidelines, policies, procedures, forms,
23 and time lines.

24 ~~(3) The administering agency, in accordance with a plan approved by the~~
25 ~~Board of Regents, may implement the provisions of this Section initially on a pilot~~
26 ~~basis. However, if implemented on a pilot basis, it is the intention of the legislature~~
27 ~~that full implementation be achieved at the earliest time possible.~~

28 G. Prior to the convening of each regular legislative session, ~~the Board of~~
29 ~~Regents, in consultation with~~ the Louisiana Student Financial Assistance
30 Commission; shall provide to the governor, the House Committee on Education, and

1 the Senate Committee on Education a written review and analysis of TOPS-Tech
2 Early Start awards relative to award use by students and the benefits therefrom as
3 well as the impact on subsequent use by students of TOPS-Tech awards.
4 Section 2. R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(2)(c)(v) is hereby repealed in its entirety.
5 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
6 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
7 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
8 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
9 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____