THE GOAL

This bill will codify changes made via Executive Order to the TOPS program that protected students from being penalized due to circumstances beyond their control stemming from Hurricane Ida.

THE CHALLENGE

In the wake of a declared emergency there are often situations that prevent students from completing courses, taking required tests or otherwise that would negatively impact their TOPS program eligibility or status. The Governor issued executive orders following Hurricane Ida that allowed for the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Aid to administer exceptions stemming from those situations. This bill will codify those Hurricane Ida-related exceptions only into law.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The bill seeks to codify into statutory law Gov. Edwards' Proclamation No. 183 ordering the waiver of certain initial and continuing TOPS eligibility necessitated by Hurricane Ida disruptions.