Proposed legislation requires that beginning with the 2024-2025 school year and thereafter, all teacher education programs must include at least three credit hours on teaching students with dyslexia within the existing credit hour requirements. Coursework must include: (1) an overview of scientific work regarding dyslexia; (2) an overview of evidence-based instruction for individuals with dyslexia; and (3) an introduction to the process of becoming a dyslexia practitioner or dyslexia therapist. Proposed legislation provides that the provisions of the proposed legislation also apply to any alternative means of teacher certification. Requires each program to designate at least one faculty member to teach the coursework and to provide specialized training to provide such instruction to students. Requires the governing authority of the program to eliminate the requirement for three credit hours of other instruction.

There will be an increase in expenditures for certain postsecondary education institutions to incorporate the required course into teacher certification programs and to train existing faculty to teach the course; however, these costs are indeterminable as implementation will vary by institution and program. The university systems estimate a cost of $104,000 in FY 24 and $59,000 in subsequent years, although this may not reflect the full cost to develop a course and revise the overall curriculum. The proposed course will supplant three hours of other required coursework. For the purposes of this fiscal note, the LFO assumes that the institutions will be required to utilize existing faculty.

The LFO cannot corroborate the workload and expenditures reported by postsecondary education institutions below, particularly whether course releases will be necessary to revise teacher preparation program curricula. To the degree that developing and teaching the required course imposes a smaller workload than that reported by the institutions, costs will decrease proportionately. The LFO cannot rule out the possibility that some postsecondary education institutions will hire additional faculty in response to the proposed legislation. To the extent that the institutions do find it necessary to hire additional faculty, there will be a commensurate increase in costs.

Louisiana State University (LSU) Shreveport reports that the campus has a faculty member who is able to teach the course; however, it will require $4,000 per year in training and travel expenses.

Southern University Baton Rouge (SUBR) reports it will require $10,000 per year in operating expenses for the resources and training necessary to develop a course on dyslexia. Approximately $9,400 of this amount is for an online dyslexia certification program offered online by Southern New Hampshire University. The remaining $600 is for textbooks, screening materials, and professional development. Note: The LFO has not received information on potential costs to Southern University New Orleans (SUNO).
The University of Louisiana (UL) system reports it cannot provide an estimate of all costs to develop the dyslexia course and to revise the overall curriculum. The system estimates that faculty training for its nine institutions will cost $90,000 in FY 24 and $45,000 in subsequent years.