EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

There will be increased statutory dedications expenditures for the Department of Education (LDE) to advertise, promote, procure professional recruitment services, travel and other tasks associated with implementing a recruitment and retention plan for athletic trainers at high schools in rural areas; such costs are limited to $75,000. Per the LDE, actual costs are indeterminable and it is unclear whether the Department would be able to implement a plan with the required budget.

There will be increased statutory dedications expenditures for the LDE to repay educational loans obtained by eligible applicants. Costs will vary based on the number of athletic trainers that apply and are eligible, the amount of student loans, and the applicant’s length of service. The LDE is still in the process of determining the potential workload associated with administering the loan repayment program and may require additional staff. As of 2022, there were 608 athletic trainers with active licenses in Louisiana; however, it is unknown how many will qualify for loan repayments now or in the future. If 10% of licensed athletic trainers were to be eligible for loan repayments, annual costs would range from $244,000 if all degrees were obtained from out-of-state programs ($1 x $4,000) up to $366,000 if all degrees were obtained from in-state programs ($1 x $6,000).

For purposes of the fiscal note, the LFO assumes costs to be funded through the statutorily dedicated Athletic Trainer Professional Development Fund created by the proposed legislation.

Creating a new statutory dedication within the state treasury will result in a marginal workload increase for the Department of Treasury, which can generally be absorbed within existing resources. However, to the extent other legislative instruments create new statutory dedications, there may be material additional costs associated with the aggregate effort to administer these funds. The Treasury performs fund accounting, financial reporting, banking and other custodial functions for 436 special funds. When unable to absorb additional workload with existing resources, the Treasury anticipates it will be required to add one T.O. position at a total personnel services cost of approximately $73,000, plus approximately $2,450 for a one-time purchase of office equipment. These expenditures are assumed to be SGF in this fiscal note.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Proposed law authorizes the state treasurer to deposit $1.5 M from the state general fund into the newly created Athletic Trainer Professional Development Fund. The LFO assumes such transfer to occur beginning in FY 23; however, it is unclear whether the legislation requires a one-time deposit or annually recurring deposits.