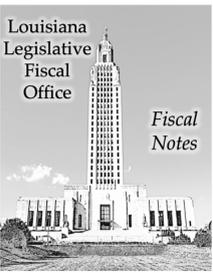


**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **HB 275** HLS 25RS 158  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 12, 2025 6:07 PM	<b>Author:</b> BERAULT
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Higher Education	
<b>Subject:</b> Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)	<b>Analyst:</b> Tanesha Morgan

TOPS OR +\$367,110 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Authorizes students who qualify for a TOPS award but graduate from an out-of-state college to apply unused award amounts to medical or dental school in Louisiana and requires repayment unless certain conditions are met  
 Present law provides TOPS, a merit scholarship program for students who meet certain academic criteria in high school and other requirements. Present law provides award recipients who graduate from college early to apply unused award amounts to postgraduate study. Proposed law retains present law and allows students to apply unused award amounts if they are enrolled in a doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathic medicine, or doctor of dentistry program in La. during or after the 2024-2025 academic year and have earned an academic baccalaureate degree from an out-of-state college. Applicable to students who qualify for TOPS upon high school graduation regardless of whether they left the state for the entirety of college or used part of their award at a TOPS-eligible college and then transferred out of state. Requires students to pay a sum equaling award amounts and interest thereon unless they are enrolled in a residency program or they practice medicine or dentistry full-time for three consecutive years in La. after residency. Requires the administering agency to provide by rule for collecting unpaid amounts and other excepted circumstances relative to payment.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	<b>\$367,110</b>	<b>\$657,220</b>	<b>\$985,830</b>	<b>\$1,314,440</b>	<b>\$1,314,440</b>	<b>\$4,639,040</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$367,110</b>	<b>\$657,220</b>	<b>\$985,830</b>	<b>\$1,314,440</b>	<b>\$1,314,440</b>	<b>\$4,639,040</b>
REVENUES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed law is anticipated to increase SGF expenditures at the Board of Regents by \$367,110 in FY 26 and annualized in future fiscal years associated with additional TOPS awards and stipends (\$328,610) and one time expenses associated with programming changes for computer systems (\$38,500). The Board of Regents projects that 34 students per year will qualify for TOPS under the proposed law. The total number of students receiving the award grows each year until there are 4 cohorts of 34 students, for a total of 136 students in FY 29 and beyond. Based on an average award amount of \$9,665 per student, the total payment is projected as follows:

	Total Payments	# of Recipients
FY 26	\$328,610	34
FY 27	\$657,220	68
FY 28	\$985,830	102
FY 29	\$1,314,440	136
FY 30	\$1,314,440	136

The Board of Regent reports that they will require three (3) new employees to implement the requirements as a result of proposed law, to include a Lawyer (\$76,709 salary + \$28,344 benefits = \$105,053), Data Analyst (\$95,144 salary + \$35,156 benefits = \$130,300), and Student Financial Aid Specialist (\$61,573 salary + \$22,751 benefits = \$84,324), for a total of \$319,677 per year in salary and benefits. The LFO cannot corroborate the increased workload predicted by the department. To the extent the additional workload is less than what the Board anticipates, the additional workload may be absorbable, either wholly or partially, using existing staff and resources or may be achievable with fewer than three positions. Therefore, salary and benefits are not reflected in the expenditures in the boxes above.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate Dual Referral Rules  
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}  
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House  
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}  
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

  
**Patrice Thomas**  
 Deputy Fiscal Officer