Louisiana Legislative Fiscal Office

Fiscal Notes

Fiscal Note On: **HB** **161** HLS 25RS 679

Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 22, 2025 9:20 AM	**Author:** HUGHES
Dept./Agy.: Higher Education	
Subject: TOPS	**Analyst:** Tanesha Morgan

COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES   EG INCREASE GF EX See Note   Page 1 of   1

Aligns programs to which TOPS Tech and TOPS Tech Early Start awards may apply with the M.J. Foster Promise Program qualified programs

Present law offers TOPS-Tech Awards for students in two-year programs and requires them to enroll in programs aligned with workforce priorities determined by the Board of Regents and Workforce Investment Council. Proposed law provides that students must instead enroll in "qualified programs" identified by an advisory council already established in law. Present law provides TOPS-Tech Early Start Awards for 11th and 12th grade public school students pursuing industry credentials that are in high demand and recognized by the State Certification Council. Proposed law provides that courses taken with this award must come from a list of "qualified programs" determined by the same advisory council mentioned above. Proposed law expands the eligibility criteria to quality for a TOPS-Tech Early Start award. Present law provides that students who attained a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system or score least fifteen on the English subsection and fifteen on the mathematics subsection of the ACT PLAN assessment. Proposed law adds a third criterion of meeting the eligibility requirements for technical dual enrollment courses as determined by the Board of Regents and provides that students must meet any one of the three criteria. Proposed law provides that these changes will start with the 2026-2027 school year.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	$0	**INCREASE**	**INCREASE**	**INCREASE**	**INCREASE**	$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
Annual Total	**$0**					**$0**
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
Annual Total	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Under the proposed law, for every 433 additional students who qualify for the TOPS-Tech Early Start program, there would be an estimated $100,000 annual increase in SGF. The LFO cannot determine the total impact, because it is not known how many additional students will qualify for the scholarship under the expanded eligibility criteria under this measure.

Proposed law expands the eligibility criteria to quality for a TOPS-Tech Early Start award. Present law provides that students who attained a silver level score on the assessments of the ACT WorkKeys system or score at least fifteen on the English subsection and fifteen on the mathematics subsection of the ACT PLAN assessment qualify for a TOPS-Tech Early Start award. Proposed law adds a third criterion of meeting the eligibility requirements for technical dual enrollment courses as determined by the Board of Regents and provides that students must meet any one of the three criteria. The average TOPS-Tech award amount over the past four years is approximately $230 per student per year. The maximum award amount is $600 per year.

For informational purposes, the historical TOPS-Tech payments are provided below:

	Total Payments	# of Recipients	Avg. Award per Student
FY 21	$206,300	877	$235
FY 22	$116,950	450	$260
FY 23	$657,200	2,479	$265
FY 24	$404,150	1,615	$162

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate	Dual Referral Rules	House	
☐ 13.5.1 >= $100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		☐ 6.8(F)(1) >= $100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}	*Patrice Thomas*
☐ 13.5.2 >= $500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}		☐ 6.8(G) >= $500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}	**Patrice Thomas** **Deputy Fiscal Officer**