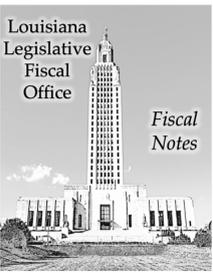


LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 77** HLS 25RS 155
 Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 16, 2025	2:20 PM	Author: TURNER
Dept./Agy.: Higher Education		
Subject: Taylor Opportunity Program for Students		Analyst: Tanesha Morgan

TOPS RE +\$3,012,092 SG EX See Note Page 1 of 1

Revises Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award amounts and adds an award category for students with an ACT score of 31 or above

Present law provides for four TOPS award levels: TOPS-Tech, Opportunity, Performance, and Honors. Proposed law provides a new fifth level called "Excellence" for students scoring 31 or higher on the ACT. Present law sets Honors (ACT score of 27+) as the highest award level. Proposed law provides that Excellence (ACT score of 31+) will be the new highest level, starting with students entering college in 2025-2026. Present law provides stipends for National Guard members who qualify for TOPS. Proposed law provides an additional higher stipend for those who qualify for the new Excellence award. Proposed law adds a third academic criterion for TOPS-Tech of at least nine credit hours of early college credit attained through dual enrollment courses or equivalent validated skills and learning measures as approved by the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council. Provides that a student qualifies for a TOPS-Tech award if he meets at least two of the three requirements provided in present law and proposed law.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$3,012,092	\$5,951,560	\$8,927,340	\$11,903,120	\$11,903,120	\$41,697,232
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	\$3,012,092	\$5,951,560	\$8,927,340	\$11,903,120	\$11,903,120	\$41,697,232
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

Proposed law is anticipated to increase SGF expenditures at the Board of Regents by \$3,012,092 in FY 26 and annualized in future fiscal years associated with additional TOPS awards (\$2,975,780) and one-time expenses associated with programming changes for computer systems (\$33,000) and administrative costs (\$3,312). The Board of Regents projects that 844 students per year will qualify for the Excellence award under the proposed law. The total number of students receiving the award grows each year until there are 4 cohorts of 844 students, for a total of 3,376 students in FY 29 and beyond. Based on an average increased award amount of \$3,526 per student, the total payment is projected as follows:

	Total Payments	# of Recipients
FY 26	\$2,975,780	844
FY 27	\$5,951,560	1,688
FY 28	\$8,927,340	2,532
FY 29	\$11,903,120	3,376
FY 30	\$11,903,120	3,376

Additionally, under the proposed law, for every 37 additional students who qualify for the TOPS-Tech program, there would be a \$100,000 annual increase in SGF. The LFO cannot determine the total impact on TOPS-Tech, because it is not known how many additional students will qualify for the TOPS-Tech award under the expanded eligibility criteria under this measure. For informational purposes, the average TOPS-Tech award amount is approximately \$2,679 per student per year.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate
 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