

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



Fiscal Note On: **HB 294** HLS 18RS 448  
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 19, 2018 9:21 AM	<b>Author:</b> SMITH, P.
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Education	<b>Analyst:</b> Jodi Mauroner
<b>Subject:</b> At Risk Students	

STUDENTS EG INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1

Changes references to "at-risk" students to students who are "economically disadvantaged" throughout Title 17 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes

**Proposed law** changes references to at-risk students to students who are economically disadvantaged. Provides that economically disadvantaged shall be defined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Deletes provision in current law that required BESE to implement a pilot program for inner-city at risk students in certain parishes. Effective 8/1/18

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
<b>Annual Total</b>						
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
<b>Annual Total</b>						

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

There will likely be increased costs in the Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) as a result of the expanded definition of "economically disadvantaged" used to determine the number of students eligible for a weighted student count; such increases are indeterminable at this time. There is an indeterminable impact to local schools districts as a result of the application of the expanded definition to other programs including LA4 and other early childhood programs.

Proposed legislation states that BESE shall define economically disadvantaged; it is unknown what that definition would include. However, Act 136 of 2017 created a definition of economically disadvantaged students as a factor in determining teacher evaluations and requirements for enrollment of at-risk students in certain charter schools. In June 2017, BESE adopted rule changes to LAC 28:1, which apply these definitions to the MFP membership definition related to the at-risk student count. Currently the Low Income and English Language Learner weight of 22% is defined as students who qualify for free or reduced meals under the U.S. Department of Agriculture School Food Service Program Guidelines. Under the provisions of the National School Lunch Program children may be determined categorically eligible through participation in certain Federal Assistance Programs, which are included in the Act 136 definition (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, and status as a homeless, migrant, or foster child). It is unknown whether all eligible students currently participate and are weighted accordingly in the MFP.

However, the definition also includes criteria which do not categorically qualify students under federal regulations, (eligibility for disaster food assistance, eligibility for state healthcare programs, and incarceration with the Office of Juvenile Justice). It is unknown the extent to which additional students will meet these proposed criteria and qualify for the additional weights in future MFP calculations. However, as an example, as a result of flooding in the state in 2016, an additional 419,000 individuals were awarded disaster food assistance; assuming 1% of those were children in public schools, there would have been an increase in the number of at-risk students by over 4,100; requiring approximately \$3.6 M in additional state and local funding.

The LDE does not anticipate any increased costs as a result of the proposed changes.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

There will be an increase in MFP revenues to local school districts as a result of expanding the current definition of "at-risk". There may be a reduction in tuition collections of local school districts due to the expanded definition. Currently, districts are authorized to charge tuition (on a sliding scale) for students who are not at risk. The expanded definition may result in a reduction in the number of students for whom districts may assess tuition. However, the extent of any such reductions are indeterminable at this time.

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|---|----------------------------|--|
| <u>Senate</u>   | <u>Dual Referral Rules</u> | <u>House</u>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}       |                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H} |                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S} |

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