



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 219** HLS 23RS 181
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 26, 2023	6:10 AM	Author: OWEN, CHARLES
Dept./Agy.: Board of Regents/Office of Student Financial Assistance		Analyst: Chris Henry
Subject: TOPS Application		

TOPS EG SEE FISC NOTE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1

Provides relative to the application for federal student aid with respect to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS)

Current law provides that a student apply for federal aid to be considered for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award, unless they demonstrate that they do not qualify for federal aid. Proposed law removes this requirement in statute. Additionally removes the ability for the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance to promulgate rules that provide an alternative application for students who demonstrate they do not qualify for federal student aid.

EXPENDITURES	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

There could be an increase in SGF expenditures for the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) resulting from the proposed legislation. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the TOPS online application are currently the two methods a student can utilize to apply for a TOPS scholarship. Historically, the FAFSA has been the preferred method to apply over the last five years with 40,000 students choosing this method and 157 students choosing the TOPS online application on average.

Certain requirements to determine TOPS initial eligibility are verified through the information on the FAFSA including: citizenship, Louisiana residency, social security number, military service, and criminal conviction. LOSFA manually processes the applications received through the TOPS online application and relies on self-certification of this information.

To the extent that a substantial amount of additional students opt to apply for a TOPS scholarship using the online application versus the FAFSA, there will be an increase in the required workload to process the online applications. Unless authorized to utilize self-certified information reported by the student, LOSFA would need to find alternative ways to verify this data. The agency has identified the following initial costs that would be associated with the needed technology to upgrade the online application, automate data verification from multiple sources, and increase data storage capabilities:

- \$19,320 to upgrade hardware for the web system and power system to handle increased web traffic and storage needs
 - \$29,435 increase in additional data backup and restore services to protect the new information
 - \$20,000 for software vendor to enhance the current online TOPS application and integrate data certification processes (100 hours at \$100/hour)
 - \$16,000 for WEBfocus consulting services to create new reports for the TOPS application process
- \$84,755 - Total**

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There are no direct material impacts to 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}

Evan Brasseaux

Evan Brasseaux
 Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer