

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 550** HLS 24RS 839
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 18, 2024	9:43 AM	Author: AMEDEE
Dept./Agy.: EDUCATION/LOSFA		
Subject: Homestudy programs/ TOPS Requirements		Analyst: Julie Silva

STUDENT/HOME STUDY EG INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1

Terminates approval of home study programs by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), provides for the enrollment of students in home schools, and provides for one-time notification to BESE upon such enrollment

Proposed legislation terminates Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approval of home study programs, effective 7/01/24. Legislation further provides for the enrollment of students in homeschools and defines homeschool as the private instruction of a child directed by a parent, requires parents submit a one-time notification to BESE including the parent's name and address and the number of enrolled students, provides that parents are solely responsible for all aspects of the homeschool's educational program, exempts homeschools from laws applicable to nonpublic schools unless provided otherwise, provides that student enrollment satisfies compulsory attendance requirements, and grants homeschool diplomas the same weight granted to approved nonpublic school diplomas and be recognized and accepted by all state departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and all other state and local governmental entities and be accepted for the student's admission to a public postsecondary education institution if the student meets all other applicable admissions requirements. Allows homeschool students the option to obtain a TOPS award through meeting the same requirements as traditional public and approved nonpublic school students including earning the requisite ACT score, cumulative grade point average, and completion of the TOPS Core Curriculum. Effective July 1, 2024.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0					\$0

REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	\$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

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) and BESE both report anticipating no additional costs related to the termination of the state approval process for home study, and replacing it with the homeschool designation. The one-time notification to BESE by parents can be processed by existing staff. The proposed addition of a second option for homeschool students to obtain a TOPS award through meeting the same requirements as traditional public and approved nonpublic school students including earning the requisite ACT score, grade point average, and completion of the TOPS Core Curriculum is anticipated to increase governmental expenditures, as provided below.

Participation:

Beginning with the 2024-25 graduating class, the proposed measure is likely to increase expenditures from SGF and Dedications out of the TOPS Fund for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) by an indeterminable amount resulting from the potential increase in homeschool students who might qualify for a TOPS award or a higher level award. The actual amount needed will vary from year-to-year based on the number of student awards, the institution the student enrolls, and the award levels qualified. The LFO cannot predict the number of students who would qualify for a TOPS award via the new process as opposed to the current requirements. Over the last five years, an average of 313 home study students were processed annually for TOPS. Of that amount, 265 (81%) were eligible for an award based on the existing criteria, with 67 (21%) qualifying for Honors, 84 (27%) Performance, 65 (21%) Opportunity, and 48 (15%) TOPS-Tech.

Administration:

The proposed measure will result in a potentially significant increase in expenditures, assumed to be SGF, to process homeschool students for TOPS awards. Currently, to process a home study student for TOPS, the only academic requirement is the official ACT score. To process students who choose the new option based on traditional TOPS requirements, course transcripts and a calculated GPA based on the core curriculum would be necessary. This information is obtained by the Office of Student Financial Assistance for public and approved nonpublic students via the Student Transcript System administered by LDOE. To securely obtain this information from the parent or designated authority of homeschool students, LDOE has indicated a new system would need to be developed at an estimated cost of \$5 M to \$7 M based on comparable systems of similar size and complexity. This cost could change as more information and details are obtained by the department in conjunction with the Office of Technology Services. The time needed to develop and initiate the new system would be upwards of 12-18 months.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There will likely be a nominal increase in SGR revenues at postsecondary institutions due to enrollment of additional students who now qualify for a TOPS award or a higher tier award 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