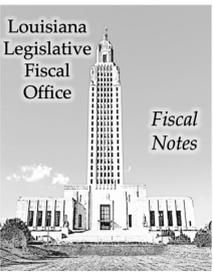


LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 482** HLS 26RS 1206
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 30, 2026 4:15 PM	Author: TURNER
Dept./Agy.: Higher Education	Analyst: Tanesha Morgan
Subject: TOPS-Tech award	

TOPS OR +\$2,600,000 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1

Revises the initial and continuing eligibility requirements for a TOPS-Tech award and raises the award amount at Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) institutions

Present law provides that award amounts are equal to tuition charged during the 2016-2017 academic year. Proposed law provides that the award amount for a TOPS-Tech eligible student enrolling at an LCTCS institution shall be \$4,500, applicable to first-time freshmen enrolling during or after the 2026-2027 academic year. Present law requires a GPA of at least 2.50 on a high school core curriculum and an ACT score of at least 17 or silver on WorkKeys. Proposed law adds a third criterion, at least nine credit hours of early college credit through dual enrollment or equivalent measures approved by the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council, and provides that a student qualifies by meeting at least two of the three criteria. Present law requires enrollment as a first-time freshman no later than the semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation. Proposed law provides that an otherwise eligible student may defer enrollment while retaining eligibility if he enrolls at an LCTCS institution prior to age 25. Present law requires full-time enrollment and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.50. Proposed law allows part-time enrollment and lowers the minimum cumulative GPA to 2.00.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$2,600,000	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000	\$19,400,000
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	\$2,600,000	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000	\$4,200,000	\$19,400,000
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	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 approximately \$2.6 M in FY 27 and annualized in future fiscal years associated with additional TOPS-Tech award costs. Proposed law makes four changes to the TOPS-Tech award program: (1) increases the award value to \$4,500 for students enrolled at LCTCS institutions beginning with first-time freshmen in the 2026-2027 academic year; (2) allows TOPS-Tech eligible students to defer their award up to the age of 25 if they enroll at an LCTCS institution; (3) adds a third initial eligibility pathway by allowing a student to qualify by meeting any two of three criteria: a minimum GPA of 2.50, an ACT score of 17 or higher, or completion of at least nine credit hours of early college credit attained through dual enrollment courses; and (4) lowers the continuing eligibility GPA from 2.50 to 2.00 and allows students to maintain eligibility while enrolled part-time.

The primary quantifiable cost driver is the increased award value at LCTCS institutions. In the academic year 2025, 1,983 TOPS-Tech students received awards at LCTCS institutions. By increasing the maximum annual award from the current average of approximately \$3,203 to \$4,500, the estimated annual increase in award payments would be approximately \$2.6 M. The FY 27 cost of \$2.6 M reflects a partial-year impact as the first cohort of eligible students enrolls, with FY 28 and future fiscal years reflecting the full annualized impact of \$4.2 M.

Based on academic year 2025 enrollment data, the estimated annual impact of the increased award value at LCTCS institutions is as follows:

	Average		
	Award	x Students	= Est. Costs
Proposed Law	\$4,500	1,983	\$8,923,500
Current Law	\$3,203	1,983	\$6,351,549
Difference			\$2,571,951

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate	Dual Referral Rules	House
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input checked="" 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}


Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer