

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**

**Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **SB 132** SLS 15RS 221  
 Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> June 9, 2015 3:09 PM	<b>Author:</b> NEVERS
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Higher Education	<b>Analyst:</b> Charley Rome
<b>Subject:</b> Reverse Transfer of Academic Credits for Veterans/Spouses	

POSTSECONDARY ED EN SEE FISC NOTE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2  
 Provides for the reverse transfer of academic credits and the award of certain credits to veterans and their spouses. (gov sig)

Proposed law authorizes and encourages four-year colleges and universities and community colleges to enter into reverse articulation or reverse transfer agreements to facilitate the transfer of academic credits earned by a student while enrolled in a four-year postsecondary institution back to a community college for the purpose of enabling a student to complete the requirements for an associate degree from the community college. Requires the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council (SATC) to establish guidelines to govern the reverse transfer of academic credits between four-year colleges and universities and community colleges. Proposed law requires each articulation and transfer agreement developed and implemented to maximize the number of academic or workforce education credits awarded to veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces for their military education, training, or experience and provide for their seamless transfer from one public postsecondary institution to another. **(Bill Summary Continued on Page Two)**

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>
<b>Annual Total</b>						
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Most of the bill's provisions should not have a significant impact on expenditures at public colleges and universities in the state. The part of the bill related to transfer of academic credit hours earned by a veteran or their spouses from a postsecondary educational institution that offers academic coursework to military personnel should not significantly increase costs for colleges and universities in the state because it requires that institutions sending the credits be accredited by appropriate regional accrediting bodies and that the credits be aligned with the course and program requirements of the receiving institution. This is likely common practice at many public postsecondary institutions in the state. The portion of the bill requiring the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council (SATC) to provide for the transfer of academic credit hours earned by a veteran or their spouses from a postsecondary educational institution that offers academic coursework to military personnel should not significantly increase costs for colleges and universities in the state for the same reasons.

It is unclear if there will be additional costs to public colleges and universities related to the bill's reporting requirements. The proposed legislation requires the Board of Regents to annually report the following to the Senate and House Education committees: 1) The number of academic or workforce education credits awarded to veterans of the United States Armed Forces for their military education, training, or experience. 2) The number of academic credits earned by veterans and spouses of veterans from a postsecondary educational institution that are transferred to a Louisiana public postsecondary educational institution. Higher education institutions will provide the required information to the Board of Regents for inclusion in the required annual reports. However, the University of Louisiana System and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) report that institutions under their management will not incur significant costs to meet the bill's reporting requirements. It is unclear if colleges and universities in the LSU and Southern Systems can provide the information required by the bill without additional costs due to modifications to student reporting and record keeping for veterans and their dependents required in the bill.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

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

- |   |                            |  |   |
|---|----------------------------|--|---|
| <u>Senate</u>   | <u>Dual Referral Rules</u> | <u>House</u>   | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S} |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}       |                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(2) >= \$500,000 Rev. Red. to State {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} |   |

*Evan Brasseaux*  
**Evan Brasseaux**  
**Staff Director**

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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

(Bill Summary Continued from Page One)

Proposed law requires the SATC to use the "Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services" and the standards of the American Council on Education to govern the award or transfer of academic or workforce credit to veterans for military education, training, or experience. Each public postsecondary educational institution shall assist veterans of the United States Armed Forces and their spouses in pursuing their educational goals by providing expedited transcript analysis, prior learning assessment, portfolio analysis, advising, and testing. At the request of an entering student who is a veteran or the spouse of a veteran, each public postsecondary education institution shall evaluate any transcript of prior earned postsecondary academic credit and accept the transfer of any credit earned from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution, provided that the credit aligns with the course and program requirements of the receiving institution. Proposed law requires the SATC to coordinate and oversee the development of a military articulation and transfer process that shall be adhered to by all public postsecondary education institutions that will: (1) Recognize and align military education, training, or experience with the appropriate academic or workforce coursework. (2) Provide for the transfer of academic credit hours earned by a veteran or the spouse of a veteran from a postsecondary education institution that offers academic coursework to military personnel and their spouses, provided such institution is accredited by the appropriate regional accrediting body and the credit to be transferred is aligned with the course and program requirements of the receiving institution. Proposed law requires the SATC to give proper consideration to the admissions standards and role, scope, and mission of each public postsecondary institution in developing the military articulation and transfer process. Proposed law requires that any policy adopted by a postsecondary education management board must conform to the provisions of proposed law. Proposed law requires the SATC to meet not later than September 15, 2015, to begin the process of implementing the provisions of proposed law. Further provides that the provisions of proposed law shall be implemented not later than the beginning of the Spring semester of the 2015-2016 academic year. Provisions in the bill pertaining to R.S. 17:3165.2 shall not apply to a former member of the United States Armed Forces who received a dishonorable discharge from military service, but shall apply to such a person's spouse. Proposed law additionally provides that such report include: (1) The number of academic or workforce education credits awarded to veterans for their military education, training, and experience. (2) The number of academic credit hours earned by veterans and spouses of veterans from a postsecondary education institution that are transferred to a La. public postsecondary institution. Requires that a copy of every articulation agreement between a La. public postsecondary educational institution and a postsecondary educational institution under contract with the DOD shall be included in the report required by present law. Proposed law specifies that this information be reported in aggregate and by public postsecondary education institution. Effective upon governor's signature.

Senate

Dual Referral Rules

House

6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}

13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}

6.8(F)(2) >= \$500,000 Rev. Red. to State {H & S}

13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S&H}

6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

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