

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **SB 329** SLS 16RS 559

Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**

Opp. Chamb. Action: **w/ HSE FLOOR AMD**

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 25, 2016 9:05 AM	<b>Author:</b> CLAITOR
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Office of Student Financial Assistance	<b>Analyst:</b> Matthew LaBruyere
<b>Subject:</b> TOPS Awards	

TOPS EGF DECREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
Increases the minimum cumulative grade point average for the Opportunity Award, the Performance Award, and the Honors Award in four years. (gov sig)

Present law provides that for an Opportunity Award a minimum GPA of 2.50 is required.

Present law provides that for a Performance Award and an Honors Award a minimum GPA of 3.00 is required.

Proposed law retains present law for any student who graduated during or after the 2007-2008 school year but prior to the 2020-2021 school year.

Proposed law requires a student, who graduates in the 2020-2021 school year or later, minimum GPA of 3.25 for a Performance Award and 3.50 for an Honors Award.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</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>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

  

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
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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>\$0</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**

The proposed legislation will result in a decrease in state general fund expenditures in FY 22 as a result of increasing the grade point average (GPA) eligibility requirement for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) certain awards. The exact decrease is indeterminable because it is unknown how many students will not meet the future GPA requirements. Since the proposed legislation will not apply to students until FY 21, a potential savings cannot be displayed in the time frame above and Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) projections do not forecast awards and amounts that far into the future.

Based on data provided by LOSFA, there were 18,694 TOPS recipients that graduated from high school in 2015. The breakdown of the 18,694 awards is as follows: 8,815 - Opportunity awards; 5,572 - Performance awards; and 4,307 - Honor awards. To the extent these GPA changes were imposed on the 2015 graduating class cohort the same number of students would be eligible, however the student award totals would change. For illustrative purposes, if the proposed legislation affected the 2015 cohort, the savings would be \$1.9 M based on the current award amount since 1,257 students would no longer be eligible for Performance awards and 1,024 students would no longer receive Honors awards. These 2,281 students would still receive either an Opportunity award (1,594 students) or a Performance award (687 students).

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

The proposed legislation may result in a decrease in self-generated revenue for public institutions beginning in FY 22. As a result of increasing the GPA requirement for TOPS Opportunity award, certain students would no longer qualify for TOPS Opportunity award. To the extent students cannot access other financial aid to replace TOPS and choose not to enroll in public institutions, then the institutions could experience a decrease in enrollment. The potential impact of this is indeterminable.

Senate Dual Referral Rules House

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

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

*Evan Brasseaux*

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