

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **SB 318** SLS 20RS 577
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.: **w/ PROP SEN COMM AMD**
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 11, 2020 1:52 PM	Author: CATHEY
Dept./Agy.: Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)	Analyst: Jodi Mauroner
Subject: TOPS Tech Awards	

TOPS OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides for TOPS-Tech award eligibility for certain military veterans. (gov sig)

Students who are eligible to receive a TOPS Opportunity or TOPS Tech awards must enroll in an eligible college or university as a first time full time freshman not later than the semester, (excluding summer semesters), immediately following the first anniversary of the date that the student graduated from high school. The proposed legislation would allow an individual who has been honorably discharged from a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces to be eligible to receive the award provided he meets the specified criteria. Requires OSFA to promulgate rules for implementation of the proposed legislation. Effective August 1, 2020.

EXPENDITURES	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
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	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	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 will be an increase in the expenditures of OSFA to extend TOPS Tech awards to eligible veterans. The award amount averages \$2,666 per year for a maximum of two (2) years.

The LA Department of Veterans Affairs (LDVA) does not maintain data on the number of individuals who process out of the service and move to or remain in Louisiana, thus the LFO is unable to ascertain the number of veterans who would be affected by this legislation. If ten veterans qualify each year, the impact would be \$26,600 in year one and \$53,320 for subsequent years.

The GI Bill provides education benefits to service members and veterans. While actual benefits vary depending upon years of service, for those members serving since 9/1/2001 benefits could range from 50% to 100% of actual tuition and fees at any public college or university, a monthly housing allowance and a stipend for textbooks and supplies. Institutions bill the VA directly for tuition and fees. Therefore, receipt of TOPS awards in excess of actual charges would be refunded to the student. LDVA indicated there are approximately 8,300 veterans currently using the GI Bill on Louisiana campuses.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on 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
Staff Director