



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 99** SLS 21RS 231
 Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 28, 2021 1:49 PM	Author: FIELDS
Dept./Agy.: Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)/TOPS	
Subject: TOPS eligibility	Analyst: Tim Mathis

TOPS EN INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to TOPS eligibility. (gov sig)

Present law provides for a one semester TOPS award reduction for applicants that obtained qualifying ACT and SAT scores after the April national test date. Provides that if a student was prevented from taking the test on or prior to the April test date due to issues with test administration, the student may provide a qualifying test score by August 1st without a one semester award reduction. Students who completed a home study program are eligible for a TOPS award if such studies were begun no later than the conclusion of the 10th grade year.

Proposed legislation, beginning with students graduating in the 2020-21 academic year, extends the date by which a student must take the ACT or SAT to receive qualifying scores with a one semester award reduction from July 1st to August 1st; and the date by which a student must take the ACT or SAT to receive qualifying scores without a one semester award reduction if he or she was prevented from taking the test on or prior to the April test date due to issues with test administration. Further provides for an exception to the home study program requirement if it is determined that the applicant's move to an approved program was precipitated by circumstances beyond the immediate control of the applicant.

EXPENDITURES	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	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	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	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

Proposed legislation is anticipated to result in an indeterminable increase in state expenditures for the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) to provide for expanded TOPS eligibility. To the extent this measure allows students that otherwise would not have been eligible for a TOPS award, there will be an increase in TOPS expenditures, however this is indeterminable as the potential number of qualifying students is unknown.

The proposed measure provides for expanded TOPS eligibility in the following circumstances:

(1) An extended timeframe of one month (July 1 to August 1) for applicants to receive qualifying ACT or SAT scores to qualify for a TOPS award *with a one-semester reduction*. Because ACT added a new testing date in July, additional students may qualify for a TOPS award or increase the level of their initial award if they receive a higher score. This will result in indeterminable increases in program costs.

(2) An extended timeframe of approximately two months (August 1 to September 30) for applicants to receive qualifying ACT or SAT scores to qualify for a TOPS award *without a one-semester reduction*, if he or she was prevented from taking the test on or prior to the April test date due to issues with test administration. Although a significant number of students who experienced testing disruptions as a result of COVID-19 were made eligible for TOPS in 2020-21 as a result of emergency provisions, this extension is not anticipated to result in significant costs going forward, however this is indeterminable.

(3) Expanded eligibility for TOPS applicants that entered an approved home study program after their 10th grade year, *if it is determined that the move was precipitated by circumstances documented to be beyond the immediate control of the applicant*. Based on past experience, OSFA anticipates that such requests will be infrequent and likely to result in minimal increases to program costs. It is unknown how many applicants that entered an approved home study program as a result of COVID-19 will qualify for TOPS through this provision.

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}

Alan M. Boxberger
 Alan M. Boxberger
 Staff Director