



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 71** SLS 23RS 54  
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 13, 2023	1:03 PM	<b>Author:</b> BOUIE
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Education		
<b>Subject:</b> Learning pods		<b>Analyst:</b> Julie Silva

SCHOOLS OR NO IMPACT See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides relative to learning pods. (gov sig)

Proposed law provides relative to the services and activities provided by learning pods. Adds language prohibiting learning pods from charging tuition or certain fees, requiring free transportation between schools and learning pods be provided, and requiring learning pods to develop and post a student fee policy.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</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>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
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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**

No fiscal impact to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) is anticipated at this time. The proposed legislation clarifies existing law but does not add additional monitoring or oversight requirements on the part of the LDE. If proposed legislation is enacted, LDE will revise current oversight processes to reflect updates in statute and will utilize existing staff members to monitor and oversee implementation.

Current law defines a learning pod as "a group of at least ten students enrolled in the school who receive instruction in a small group setting." Learning pods are considered to be an extension of the school that is choosing to operate them. As such, the school is responsible for any additional costs incurred as a result of operating the given pod. Under the current law, "students assigned to a learning pod shall be eligible for participation in all services and activities for which they would be eligible if not assigned to a learning pod." The proposed legislation further clarifies that students at a learning pod shall not be charged for: (1) tuition or fees for attendance, (2) services not charged to students at the school, (3) any service offered only at the school, (4) any specialized curriculum, (5) special education service or any activities or services for which state or federal funds were provided.

Additionally, proposed legislation clarifies that transportation to and from the learning pod and between the learning pod and the school (for student services and activities only available at the school) shall be provided at no cost to students. Food services must also be provided to learning pod students that qualify for free or reduced lunch. Lastly, the school must adopt a student fee policy in accordance with R.S. 17:177 and post this policy to the school's website. Because compliance with transportation, food services, and website requirements is already a function of the LDE's oversight of charter schools and traditional systems, the LDE does not anticipate any fiscal impact due to the proposed legislation at this time.

**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*  
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**Evan Brasseaux**  
 Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer