

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**

**Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **SB 98** SLS 14RS 252  
 Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> June 4, 2014 9:45 AM	<b>Author:</b> NEVERS
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Office of Student Financial Assistance	
<b>Subject:</b> Five-Point Scale for Certain Honors/Talented Courses	<b>Analyst:</b> Charley Rome

TOPS EN +\$1,240,000 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1

Provides that a five-point scale shall be used when calculating the grade point average for certain honors courses and talented courses. (gov sig)

Proposed law provides that, beginning with students graduating in the 2017-18 school year, TOPS GPA calculation shall utilize a five-point scale for grades earned in honors/talented courses and articulated courses for college credit as approved by the Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Further provides that for such honors/talented courses and articulated courses for college credit, five quality points shall be assigned to an "A", four quality points shall be assigned to a "B", three quality points shall be assigned to a "C", two quality points shall be assigned to a "D", and zero quality points shall be assigned to an "F". Current law already uses a five-point grading scale for the following types of courses: Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), gifted, and dual enrollment. Effective upon governor's signature.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,240,000	<b>\$1,240,000</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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,240,000</b>	<b>\$1,240,000</b>

  

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
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Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<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**

TOPS expenditures will increase by approximately \$1.24M in FY19 due to the proposed legislation. LOSFA reviewed honors courses taken by 2013 high school graduates in East Baton Rouge Parish and assumed high school graduates statewide had similar participation rates. Based on the EBR sample, LOSFA estimates that 15,460 students took honors courses statewide in the 2012-13 school year. Based on these 15,460 students, LOSFA estimates that TOPS awards and stipends will increase by \$1,239,770 in FY19. This amount includes the following: 155 additional TOPS-Tech awards (\$112,590), 163 additional Opportunity awards (\$996,380), and additional stipends including the following: 213 Performance Stipends of \$400 per year (\$85,200) and 57 Honors stipends of \$800 per year (\$45,600). However, to the extent that statewide participation rates differ from EBR, actual costs could be more or less than projected.

The bill's provisions adding talented courses and articulated courses for college credit will not have a significant impact on TOPS expenditures. LOSFA reports that there are currently no talented courses offered in high schools that are approved by BESE and the Board of Regents. Furthermore, LOSFA reports that if talented courses are approved, the number of courses will be small and will not have a significant impact on the GPA of high school students or on the number of TOPS awards or expenditures in the future. Furthermore, LOSFA reports that articulated courses for college credit only apply to courses taken at the Louisiana School for Math, Sciences and the Arts (LSMSA) that are taught by the school's faculty. But, almost all LSMSA students already qualify for TOPS, so providing an extra quality point for these courses will not have a significant impact on TOPS expenditures.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

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

Senate	<u>Dual Referral Rules</u>	House	<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}	 <b>Evan Brasseaux</b> Staff Director
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(2) >= \$500,000 State Rev. Reduc. {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}		