

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**



Fiscal Note On: **HB 181** HLS 15RS 773

Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 18, 2015 6:54 AM	<b>Author:</b> BROWN, TERRY
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Office of Student Financial Assistance	<b>Analyst:</b> Charley Rome
<b>Subject:</b> Changes Student Citizenship Requirements for TOPS	

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHP

OR -\$594,385 GF EX See Note

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Provides relative to student citizenship requirements for TOPS eligibility purposes

Current law provides exceptions for non-U.S. citizens to be eligible for TOPS award if they meet either of the following: (1) If the student is eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship and within 60 days of attaining majority such student applies for U.S. citizenship and obtains such citizenship within one year after the date of application. (2) A student graduating during the 2002-2003 school year or after who is a permanent resident and is eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship. Proposed law prohibits students graduating during the 2018-2019 school year and thereafter from qualifying for present law exceptions to the citizenship requirement. The bill further provides the following new exception to the present law citizenship requirement for such students: a non-U.S. citizen may qualify for a TOPS award if the student's parent is either serving in or has been honorably discharged from any branch of the U.S. armed forces. Effective upon governor's signature.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$594,385)	<b>(\$594,385)</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>(\$594,385)</b>	<b>(\$594,385)</b>

  

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</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>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

The proposed legislation will decrease TOPS expenditures from state general fund by an estimated \$594,385 per year in FY20 in thereafter. The bill is effective with the 2018-2019 high school academic year and the first fiscal impact of the legislation would be in FY20. The Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) projects that 107 students will not be eligible for a TOPS award in FY20 and thereafter due to the bill's citizenship requirement, with a corresponding estimated savings of \$594,385 in FY20 based on an average TOPS award amount of \$5,555. However, the bill allows non-U.S. citizens to qualify for a TOPS award if their parent is either serving in, or has been honorably discharged from any branch of the U.S. armed forces. This provision of the bill will allow some of the non-citizen students affected by the bill to obtain a TOPS award and reduce the estimated savings by some amount. However, LOSFA does not have information on the military service of parents of non-citizen students to estimate how many of these students might be eligible based on the proposed legislation.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

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

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|---|----------------------------|--------------|--|
| <u>Senate</u>   | <u>Dual Referral Rules</u> | <u>House</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S&H}       |                            |              | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(2) >= \$500,000 Rev. Red. to State {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} |

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