

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 385** HLS 26RS 597

Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 10, 2026	12:03 PM	Author: BAMBURG
Dept./Agy.: Higher Education		Analyst: Tanesha Morgan
Subject: TOPS repayment		

TOPS OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
Provides, under specified circumstances, for repayment of a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award

Present law provides for the TOPS merit scholarship program and requires students to meet continuing eligibility requirements, including satisfactory academic progress, minimum GPA, and no criminal convictions other than misdemeanor traffic violations. Proposed law provides that students who graduate during or after the 2025-2026 school year must repay award amounts paid on their behalf if their award is suspended or canceled for failure to meet continuing eligibility requirements. Provides that the Board of Regents shall promulgate rules for collecting amounts owed, including interest on unpaid balances, and for exceptions to the repayment requirement. Provides that exceptions are limited to the following circumstances: parental leave, physical rehabilitation, substance abuse rehabilitation, temporary or permanent disability, exceptional educational opportunity, religious commitment, death of an immediate family member, military service, transfer to a selective enrollment program, unavailability of courses, natural disaster, and exceptional circumstances.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Annual Total

REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Annual Total

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

The proposed legislation will likely result in an increase in SGF expenditures by the Board of Regents as a result of requiring the repayment of Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) awards for not maintaining continuing eligibility requirements. The exact increase is indeterminable because it is unknown how much programming costs will be to modify the Louisiana Award System and how many positions the Board of Regents will require to handle the repayment status of students.

The Board of Regents will also likely need additional staff to handle duties such as tracking students who enter repayment status, determining eligibility for deferment or exception, and processing and tracking payments. The exact number of additional personnel is indeterminable at this time and will depend on the number of students who do not maintain eligibility and must repay TOPS awards.

The LFO has requested additional information from the Board of Regents to determine the expenditure impact of the proposed law. This note will be updated when additional information becomes available.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

The proposed legislation will likely result in an increase in state revenue as a result of students repaying TOPS awards. Proposed legislation does not specify where repayment revenue would be deposited. Since TOPS is funded through a combination of State General Fund and the TOPS Fund (Statutory Dedications), the LFO presumes repayments would be deposited into the TOPS Fund. The exact increase in Statutory Dedication revenue is indeterminable since it is unknown how many students will not maintain eligibility and how much would be collected in repayments of TOPS awards.

Senate

Dual Referral Rules

House

13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}

6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}

13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer