



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE  
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 378** HLS 25RS 992  
Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**  
Opp. Chamb. Action:  
  
Proposed Amd.:  
Sub. Bill For.:

|   |         |                                |
|---|---------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Date:</b> June 11, 2025                              | 2:35 PM | <b>Author:</b> WILDER          |
| <b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Higher Education                     |         |                                |
| <b>Subject:</b> Taylor Opportunity Program for Students |         | <b>Analyst:</b> Tanesha Morgan |

TOPS EN +\$172,184 SG EX See Note Page 1 of 1

Lowers the ACT score required for initial qualification for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students award for students who complete approved home study programs

Present law provides for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) as a merit scholarship program for students meeting specific initial eligibility requirements, including the following academic requirements, which vary depending on the award level: (1) Successful completion of a specific high school core curriculum; (2) Attaining a minimum grade point average on such curriculum; and (3) Attaining a minimum ACT score. Present law exempts students who complete approved home study programs from requirements provided in (1) and (2) above but requires them to score at least two points higher than the minimum ACT score required by present law to qualify for a TOPS-Tech or Opportunity Award and one point higher for a Performance or Honors Award. Proposed law removes this requirement, applicable to those initially qualifying for the 2025-2026 award year and thereafter, which would subject them to the following present law minimum ACT score requirements: TOPS-Tech, 17; Opportunity, 20; Performance, 23; and Honors, 27.

| EXPENDITURES   | 2025-26   | 2026-27   | 2027-28   | 2028-29   | 2029-30   | 5 -YEAR TOTAL |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| State Gen. Fd. | \$172,184 | \$172,184 | \$172,184 | \$172,184 | \$172,184 | \$860,920     |
| 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   | \$172,184 | \$172,184 | \$172,184 | \$172,184 | \$172,184 | \$860,920     |

| REVENUES       | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 | 2029-30 | 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    | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0           |
| Annual Total   | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0     | \$0           |

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed law is anticipated to increase SGF expenditures at the Board of Regents by approximately \$172,184 in FY 26 and annualized in future fiscal years associated with additional TOPS awards. Under current law, the TOPS program expenditure for home-schooled students from 2019-2024 was approximately \$1.43 M on average per year. However, had the proposed law been in effect during this same period, the total TOPS program expenditure for home-schooled students would have been approximately \$1.59 M on average per year. A detailed breakout is below:

| Year    | Under Current Law |              | Under Proposed Law |                 | Difference |
|---------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------|
|         | Eligible Students | Actual Costs | Eligible Students  | Projected Costs |            |
| 2019    | 288               | \$1,582,758  | 295                | \$1,729,436     | \$146,678  |
| 2020    | 284               | \$1,560,557  | 294                | \$1,729,677     | \$169,120  |
| 2021    | 228               | \$1,282,976  | 253                | \$1,437,418     | \$154,442  |
| 2022    | 259               | \$1,395,902  | 274                | \$1,566,706     | \$170,804  |
| 2023    | 278               | \$1,508,790  | 311                | \$1,721,732     | \$212,942  |
| 2024    | 220               | \$1,224,958  | 250                | \$1,404,074     | \$179,116  |
| Average | 260               | \$1,426,000  | 280                | \$1,598,000     | \$172,184  |

Note: It is important to note that some students would move between award categories and the overall effect would be an increase of approximately 20 students per year becoming eligible for TOPS awards. Most of the costs come from more students qualifying for the higher-value Performance and Honors awards, rather than just more students qualifying overall.


| Award Category | Current Law<br>ACT Required | Proposed Law<br>ACT Required | Average<br>Award | Avg Annual<br>Change | Change<br>in Students |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| TOPS-Tech      | 19-21                       | 17-19                        | \$2,666          | (\$28,883)           | -10                   |
| Opportunity    | 22-23                       | 20-22                        | \$5,393          | \$216                | 0                     |
| Performance    | 24-27                       | 23-26                        | \$6,054          | \$84,760             | +14                   |
| Honors         | 28-36                       | 27-36                        | \$6,910          | \$116,091            | +16                   |
|                |                             |                              |                  | \$172,184            | 20                    |

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

Senate  
☒ 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}

  
Patrice Thomas  
Deputy Fiscal Officer