



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

Fiscal Note On: **HB 482** HLS 26RS 1206  
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action:  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> April 10, 2026	10:55 AM	<b>Author:</b> TURNER
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Higher Education		
<b>Subject:</b> TOPS-Tech award		<b>Analyst:</b> Tanesha Morgan

TOPS EG +\$3,200,000 GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1

Revises the initial and continuing eligibility requirements for a TOPS-Tech award and raises the award amount at Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) institutions

Proposed law provides that the award amount for a TOPS-Tech eligible student enrolling at a public college shall be the greater of \$4,500 or the award amount for that program at that institution during the 2025-2026 academic year, applicable to first-time freshmen enrolling during or after the 2026-27 academic year. Present law requires a GPA of at least 2.5 on a high school core curriculum and an ACT score of at least 17 or silver on WorkKeys. Proposed law adds a third criterion, at least 9 credit hours of early college credit through dual enrollment or equivalent measures approved by the Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council, and provides that a student qualifies by meeting at least two of the three criteria. Present law requires enrollment as a first-time freshman no later than the semester following the first anniversary of high school graduation. Proposed law provides that an otherwise eligible student may defer enrollment while retaining eligibility if he enrolls at a public college prior to age 25. Present law requires FT enrollment and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.50. Proposed law allows PT enrollment and lowers the minimum cumulative GPA to 2.0.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	<b>\$3,200,000</b>	<b>\$4,700,000</b>	<b>\$4,700,000</b>	<b>\$4,700,000</b>	<b>\$4,700,000</b>	<b>\$22,000,000</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>\$3,200,000</b>	<b>\$4,700,000</b>	<b>\$4,700,000</b>	<b>\$4,700,000</b>	<b>\$4,700,000</b>	<b>\$22,000,000</b>
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
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	\$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**

Proposed law is anticipated to increase SGF expenditures at the Board of Regents by approximately \$3.2 M in FY 27 and annualized in future fiscal years associated with additional TOPS-Tech award costs. Proposed law makes four changes to the TOPS-Tech award program: (1) increases the award value to the greater of \$4,500 or the 2025-2026 award amount for students enrolled at public colleges and universities beginning with first-time freshmen in the 2026-2027 academic year; (2) allows TOPS-Tech eligible students to defer their award up to the age of 25 if they enroll at a public college or university; (3) adds a third initial eligibility pathway by allowing a student to qualify by meeting any two of three criteria: a minimum GPA of 2.50, an ACT score of 17 or higher, or completion of at least nine credit hours of early college credit attained through dual enrollment courses; and (4) lowers the continuing eligibility GPA from 2.50 to 2.00 and allows students to maintain eligibility while enrolled part-time.

The primary quantifiable cost driver is the increased award value at public colleges and universities. In the academic year 2025, 2,365 TOPS-Tech students received awards at public institutions whose award value was below \$4,500. By increasing the maximum annual award from the current average of approximately \$3,209 to \$4,500, the estimated annual increase in award payments would be approximately \$3.2 M. The FY 27 cost of \$3.2 M reflects a partial-year impact as the first cohort of eligible students enrolls, with FY 28 and future fiscal years reflecting the full annualized impact of \$4.7 M.

**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**