

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **HB 945** HLS 12RS 865
 Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 16, 2012 10:48 AM	Author: BURNS, HENRY
Dept./Agy.: Higher Education	
Subject: Extends TOPS Eligibility for Veterans	Analyst: Charley Rome

STUDENT/LOANS-SCHOLARSHIP EN SEE FISC NOTE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Extends TOPS eligibility for certain students who reenlist in the U.S. Armed Forces and maintain continuous active duty

Present law provides that if the student joins the U. S. Armed Forces within one year of high school graduation, the student must enroll for TOPS in an eligible college or university as a first-time freshman not later than the semester immediately following the fifth anniversary of high school graduation or completion of a home study program. Effective from the 1996-1997 school year and thereafter, the proposed law extends this four year period for initial TOPS enrollment for veterans to the length of time of the student's active military service. Present law further provides that if a period of TOPS ineligibility due to inadequate grades is interrupted due to a student's active duty service in the U. S. Armed Forces, the ineligibility period will be extended to a length of time equal to the student's active duty service, not to exceed four years. Proposed law extends the ineligibility period due to inadequate grades from four years to the length of time of the student's active duty service. Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

EXPENDITURES	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW					
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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Annual Total						

REVENUES	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	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	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

The bill's impact on TOPS expenditures is unknown. However, the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) does not anticipate that the bill will impact many students or have significant costs for TOPS awards.

LOSFA estimates that approximately 2,700 students a year do not accept their initial TOPS Award for the following reasons: 1) do not intend to go to college, 2) attend college out of state, 3) attend a school or training program not eligible for TOPS, or 4) enter the military. The bill applies only to those entering the military, and LOSFA cannot identify how many of the 2,700 students mentioned above enter the military. Specifically, LOSFA is aware of only one individual fitting the bill's specific provisions. As such, this provision from the bill is not likely to affect many students or have significant costs for TOPS awards.

LOSFA has no information to estimate the number of students affected, or the potential costs associated with extending the TOPS ineligibility period due to inadequate grades for veterans or the potential costs to retroactively extend the initial TOPS enrollment period. However, LOSFA does not believe the bill will affect many students or have significant costs for TOPS awards.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

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

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