

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**SB 61 – HB 351**

March 16, 2005

**SUMMARY OF BILL:**

1. Changes high school grade point average eligibility requirement from *unweighted* to *weighted* grade point average.
2. Permits certain transfer students to be eligible to receive HOPE scholarships.
3. Allows scholarship eligible students to postpone entry into college for up to 16 months following the completion of high school, completing high school in a Tennessee home school program, or obtaining a GED.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Other Fiscal Impact – Increases the net expenditure of lottery proceeds earmarked for scholarships and grants by an amount exceeding \$100,000.**

Assumptions:

- The fiscal impact of students being allowed to wait up to 16 months after completing high school to enter college and receive the lottery scholarship cannot be reasonably determined but is estimated to be significant.
- Also assumes allowing students to wait could impair the ability to forecast the number of students who will enter the program in a given year. Therefore, the ability to plan and to fund the program will be impacted.
- The use of weighted grade point averages as determined by the state board of education to determine eligibility for lottery scholarships is estimated to be not significant since the majority of students who qualified for the awards in the Fall of 2004, did so by meeting the ACT requirement.

For information purposes: The state of Louisiana provides an expanded window for enrollment purposes as proposed by this bill. Louisiana scholarship staff has indicated that this has led to administrative difficulties in keeping track of students and in the ability to plan from a fiscal perspective.

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director