

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

**RULE TITLE: Strategies to  
Empower People (STEP) Program**

**I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO  
STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (Summary)**

This rule proposes to continue the provisions of the July 1, 2015 emergency rule, which amends Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC), Title 67, Part III, Subpart 16 Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program, Chapter 57 – Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program, Section 5721 – Job Readiness. The proposed rule amends Section 5721 – Job Readiness to give the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) more flexibility in operating the STEP program.

The proposed rule eliminates the work-eligible Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) applicant requirement of registering for work during the application period and prior to certification with Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC). Work-eligible FITAP recipients will now register for work when participating in Job Readiness activities. The proposed rule does not eliminate any work requirements as specified by law. Work activity requirements including job readiness activities are included in Section 5713 – Work Activities.

The proposed rule will not impact the overall revenues or expenditures of the department. The rule allows the department to facilitate the expenditure of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant funding. The only cost associated with this proposed rule is the cost of publishing rulemaking. It is anticipated that \$1,065 (Federal) will be expended in FY 15-16 for the state's administrative expense for promulgation of this proposed rule and the final rule. This is a one-time cost that is routinely included in the department's operating budget.

**II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE  
OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)**

Implementation of this proposed rule will have no effect on revenue collections of State or local governmental units.

**III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO  
DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL  
GROUPS (Summary)**

Implementation of this proposed rule will have no cost or economic benefit to directly affected persons or nongovernmental groups. Work-eligible FITAP recipients will now register for work when participating in Job Readiness activities.

**IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT  
(Summary)**

This proposed rule will not have an impact on competition and employment for low-income families.

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Gregory V. Albrecht  
Chief Economist  
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**NOTICE OF INTENT**

**Department of Economic Development  
Office of Business Development**

**Industrial Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program  
(LAC 13:I.Chapter 5)**

These rules are being published in the *Louisiana Register* as required by R.S. 47:4351 et seq. The Department of Economic Development, Office of Business Development, as authorized by and pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., and R.S. 36:104 hereby proposes to amend and reenact Sections 503, 505, 525, 527, 529, 533 and 535 for the administration of the Industrial Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program in LAC 13:I.Chapter 5 to implement fees under the new fee schedule provided for by Act 361 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

**Title 13**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Part I. Financial Incentive Programs**

**Chapter 5. Industrial Ad Valorem Tax Exemption  
Program**

**§503. Advance Notification; Application**

A. An advance notification of intent to apply for tax exemption shall be filed with the LED Office of Business Development (OBD) on the prescribed form prior to the beginning of construction or installation of facilities. The phrase "beginning of construction" shall mean the first day on which foundations are started, or, where foundations are unnecessary, the first day on which installation of the facility begins. An advance notification fee of \$250 shall be submitted with the form. The advance notification will expire and become void if no application is filed within 12 months of the estimated project ending date stated in the advance notification (subject to amendment by the applicant).

B. - B.3. ...

C. An application fee shall be submitted with the application in the amount equal to 0.5 percent of the estimated total amount of taxes to be exempted. In no case shall an application fee be smaller than \$500 and in no case shall a fee exceed \$15,000 per project.

D. - F. ....

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with Article VII, Part 2, Section 21(F) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Adopted by the State Board of Commerce and Industry, December 9, 1946, amended and promulgated by Department of Commerce, Office of Commerce and Industry, LR 11:97 (February 1985), LR 12:662 (October 1986), amended by the Department of Economic Development, Office of Commerce and Industry, LR 20:864 (August 1994), amended by the Department of Economic Development, Office of Business Development, LR 37:2376 (August 2011), LR 41:

**§505. Miscellaneous Capital Additions**

A. - B.2. ...

C. An application fee shall be submitted with the MCA application in the amount equal to 0.5 percent of the estimated total amount of taxes to be exempted. In no case shall an application fee be smaller than \$500 and in no case shall a fee exceed \$15,000 per project.

D. - F. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Article VII, Part 2, Section 21(F) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Commerce, Office of Commerce and Industry, LR 11:97 (February 1985), amended LR 12:662 (October 1986), amended by the Department of Economic Development, Office of Commerce and Industry, LR 20:865 (August 1994), amended by the Department of Economic Development, Office of Business Development, LR 37:2377 (August 2011), LR 41:

**§525. Effective Date of Contract; Project Completion Report**

A. The owner of a new manufacturing establishment or addition shall document the beginning date of operations and the date that construction is substantially complete. The owner must file that information with OBD on the prescribed Project Completion Report form not later than 90 days after the beginning of operations, completion of construction, or receipt of the fully executed contract, whichever occurs last. A project completion report fee of \$250 shall be submitted with the form. The deadline for filing the Project Completion Report may be extended pursuant to §523.

B. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Article VII, Part 2, Section 21(F) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the State Board of Commerce and Industry, December 9, 1946, amended and promulgated by the Department of Economic Development, Office of Commerce and Industry, LR 20:867 (August 1994), amended by the Department of Economic Development, Office of Business Development LR 37:2379 (August 2011), LR 41:

**§527. Affidavit of Final Cost**

A. Within six months of the beginning of operations, completion of construction, or receipt of the executed contract, whichever occurs last, the owner of a manufacturing establishment or addition shall file on the prescribed form an affidavit of final cost showing complete cost of the exempted project. A fee of \$250 shall be filed with the affidavit of final cost or any amendment to the affidavit of final cost. Upon request by OBD, a map showing the location of all facilities exempted in the project shall be submitted in order that the exempted property may be clearly identifiable. The deadline for filing the affidavit of final cost may be extended pursuant to §523.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Article VII, Part 2, Section 21(F) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the State Board of Commerce and Industry, December 9, 1946, amended and promulgated by the Department of Commerce, Office of Commerce and Industry, LR 12:662 (October 1986), amended by the Department of Economic Development, Office of Commerce and Industry, LR 20:867 (August 1994), amended by the Department of Economic Development, Office of Business Development, LR 37:2379 (August 2011), LR 41:

**§529. Renewal of Tax Exemption Contract**

A. Application for renewal of the exemption must be filed with OBD on the prescribed form not more than six

months before, and not later than, the expiration of the initial contract. A fee of \$250 shall be filed with the renewal application. The document shall not be considered officially received and accepted until the appropriate fee is submitted. Upon proper showing of full compliance with the initial contract of exemption, the contract may be approved by the board for an additional period of up to but not exceeding five years.

B. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Article VII, Part 2, Section 21(F) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Adopted by the State Board of Commerce and Industry, December 9, 1946, amended and promulgated by the Department of Economic Development, Office of Commerce and Industry, LR 20:867 (August 1994), amended by the Department of Economic Development, Office of Business Development, LR 37:2379 (August 2011), LR 41:

**§533. Reporting Requirements for Changes in Operations**

A. OBD is to be notified immediately of any change which affects the tax exemption contract. This includes any changes in the ownership or operational name of a firm holding a tax exemption contract. A fee of \$250 shall be filed with a request for any contract amendment, including but not limited to, a change of ownership, change in name, or change in location. The board may consider restrictions or cancellation of a contract for cessation of the manufacturing operation, or retirement of any portion of the exempted equipment. Failure to report any material changes constitutes a breach of contract and, with approval by the board, shall result in restriction or termination.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Article VII, Part 2, Section 21(F) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Economic Development, Office of Commerce and Industry, LR 20:867 (August 1994), amended by the Department of Economic Development, Office of Business Development, LR 37:2380 (August 2011), LR 41:

**§535. Sale or Transfer of Exempted Manufacturing Establishment**

A. In the event an applicant should sell or otherwise dispose of property covered by a contract of exemption, the purchaser of the said plant or property may, within three months of the date of such act of sale, apply to the board for a transfer of the contract. A fee of \$250 shall be filed with a request to transfer the contract. The board shall consider all such applications for transfer of contracts of exemption strictly on the merits of the application for such transfer. No such transfer shall in any way impair or amend any of the provisions of the contract so transferred other than to change the name of the contracting applicant. Failure to request or apply for a transfer within the stipulated time period shall constitute a violation of the contract.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Article VII, Part 2, Section 21(F) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Economic Development, Office of Commerce and Industry, LR 20:868 (August 1994), amended by the Department of Economic Development, Office of Business Development, LR 37:2380 (August 2011), LR 41:

**Family Impact Statement**

The proposed Rule changes have no impact on family formation, stability or autonomy, as described in R.S. 49.972.

### Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed rulemaking will have no impact on poverty as described in R.S. 49:973.

### Provider Impact Statement

The proposed rulemaking should have no provider impact as described in HCR 170 of 2014.

### Public Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments to Danielle Clapinski, Louisiana Department of Economic Development, P.O. Box 94185, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9185; or physically delivered to Capitol Annex Building, Office of the Secretary, Second Floor, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802. Comments may also be sent by email to [danielle.clapinski@la.gov](mailto:danielle.clapinski@la.gov). All comments must be received no later than 5 p.m., on September 28, 2015.

### Public Hearing

A public hearing to receive comments on the Notice of Intent will be held on September 29, 2015 at 10 a.m. at the Department of Economic Development, 1051 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802.

Anne G. Villa  
Undersecretary

### FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES RULE TITLE: Industrial Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program

#### I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (Summary)

There will be no incremental costs or savings to state or local governmental units due to the implementation of these rules. The Department of Economic Development intends to administer the program with existing personnel.

#### II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

Act 361 of the 2015 legislative session provides for the recovery costs for incentives or assistance granted by the department and authorizes the establishment of fees by rule promulgated in the APA, setting maximum fee amounts for the following documents filed with LED for purposes of the Industrial Tax Exemption Program: (1) advance notification fee, (2) filing application fee, (3) fee for affidavit of final cost, (4) fee for project completion report, (5) contract amendment fee, and (6) contract renewal fee. Based on this, agency self-generated revenue would increase by about \$1,500,000 in FY 16, FY 17, and FY 18.

#### III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

The income of businesses participating in the program will slightly decrease by the amount of increased fees.

#### IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

Companies receiving benefits under this program will continue to gain competitively over companies that do not receive the program's benefits; however, the degree of competitive advantage will decrease slightly with these participating companies having to pay increased fees.

Anne G. Villa  
Undersecretary  
1508#056

Gregory V. Albrecht  
Chief Economist  
Legislative Fiscal Office

### NOTICE OF INTENT

#### Student Financial Assistance Commission Office of Student Financial Assistance

Scholarship/Grant Programs  
Acts of the 2015 Regular Session  
(LAC 28:IV.301, 703, 801, 803, 805, 1005, and 1903)

The Louisiana Student Financial Assistance Commission (LASFAC) announces its intention to amend its scholarship/grant rules (R.S. 17:3021-3025, R.S. 3041.10-3041.15, R.S. 17:3042.1, R.S. 17:3048.1, R.S. 17:3048.5 and R.S. 17:3048.6).

This rulemaking implements Acts 101, 403, and 230 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature by amending the TOPS rules to provide an alternative citizenship requirement, align the TOPS Tech core curriculum with the Career Diploma graduation requirements, and to change the TOPS Tech award to align its use with workforce priorities.

This rulemaking also implements Act 403 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature by adding alternative standardized tests that can be taken to be eligible for the TOPS Tech Early Start award. (SG16163NI)

#### Title 28

#### EDUCATION

#### Part IV. Student Financial Assistance—Higher Education Scholarship and Grant Programs

#### Chapter 3. Definitions

#### §301. Definitions

A. Words and terms not otherwise defined in this Chapter shall have the meanings ascribed to such words and terms in this Section. Where the masculine is used in these rules, it includes the feminine, and vice versa; where the singular is used, it includes the plural, and vice versa.

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#### Eligible Noncitizen—

a. for students graduating in the 2017-2018 academic year (high school) and prior, an individual who can provide documentation from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or its successor that he is in the U.S. for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a citizen or permanent resident, including, but not limited to, refugees, persons granted asylum, Cuban-Haitian entrants, temporary residents under the recent Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, and others. A permanent resident of the United States must provide documentation from the USCIS to verify permanent residency. For 1997, 1998 and 1999 high school graduates, an eligible noncitizen shall be treated as meeting the citizenship requirements for an award under this Part;

b. for students graduating in the 2018-2019 academic year (high school) and later, a student who is not a citizen of the United States but who is the child of a non-United States citizen who is either serving in any branch of the United States armed forces or has been honorably discharged from any branch of the United States armed forces shall be treated as meeting the citizenship requirements for an award under this Part.

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