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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR T. Garcia ORIGINAL DATE 1/27/09
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 234
SHORT TITLE School Administrator Licensure Consideration SB _____
ANALYST Varela

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 234 carries no appropriation and provides for consideration of administrative employment experience in granting a level three-B license to a school administrator. House Bill 234 adds a new section to the School Personnel Act.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation or fiscal impact associated with House Bill 234.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Public Education Department (PED), House Bill 234 provides for the department to grant a level three-B license to an applicant who has employment experience as a professional working in an educational setting and has satisfactorily completed PED-approved courses in administration, and a PED-approved administration apprenticeship program. The applicant must demonstrate instructional leader competence required by PED and verified by the

local superintendent or in the case of a superintendent, the local school board through the Highly Objective Uniform Statewide Standard of Evaluation.

SJM 15 passed in 2007 requested that PED study whether an alternative pathway to licensure for school administrators should be created; develop a model for alternative level three-B licensure; and report findings and recommendations to the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC).

In their report to the LESC, PED created a task force representing principals, aspiring principals, direct administrators, and higher education to review current licensure requirements for school administrators in New Mexico and provide recommendations regarding a possible alternative to licensure.

According to PED, the task force found that New Mexico requires more years of teacher experience as a prerequisite to alternative licensure than any other state. Further, it found that New Mexico's current requirements for level three-B licensure represent the "gold standard" for administrative licensure. In cases where school districts are unable to find candidates who meet this gold standard, an alternative pathway should be available to the districts and prospective candidates.

Among the trends noted by the task force, New Mexico was the only state requiring seven years of teaching experience as a prerequisite to administrative licensure. The seven years required to teach before becoming an administrator breaks down as follows: Level 1, three years teaching experience; Level 2, three years teaching experience; and Level 3, one year teaching experience. This bill eliminates the requirement of teaching for one year at Level 3 prior to being eligible for an administrator license, thus removing what is seen as a disincentive to becoming a level three-B administrator.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED will have to amend its rules in order to comply with statute changes if House Bill 234 is enacted.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

House Bill 234 does not designate how many years of experience working in a professional educational setting or what types of positions in a professional setting are acceptable.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If this bill does not pass, the requirement for teaching for one year at Level 3 prior to being eligible for an Administrator License will not be eliminated.

PV/mt