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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/4/09

SPONSOR Garcia, T LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 55

SHORT TITLE Licensed Engineers & Surveyors Teaching SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 55 requests that the State of New Mexico phase in the requirement that engineering and surveying faculty at public post-secondary institutions be professionally licensed in the discipline in which the faculty member teaches and furthermore that when licensure is required, instructing students in engineering or surveying courses without an appropriate license be considered practicing the discipline without a license.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no apparent fiscal impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The board of licensure for professional engineers and professional surveyors supports requiring professional licensure for all engineering and surveying faculty at New Mexico's public post-secondary institutions that offer accredited engineering and surveying programs.

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The New Mexico society of professional engineers also would support a state requirement that all engineering and surveying faculty at New Mexico's public post-secondary institutions be professionally licensed in the discipline in which the faculty member teaches.

The national council of examiners for engineering and surveying is currently encouraging state boards to promote licensure of engineering and surveying faculty in the disciplines in which the faculty member teaches.

The HED states:

According to a representative from NMSU College of Engineering, graduating engineering students are generally encouraged to seek licensure. However, a majority of the student population never obtains licensure because many of the employment industries that they go on to serve do not require a license. HP, IBM, and GM are three such examples. The representative went on to explain that in particular fields such as civil engineering and power engineering (EE), licensure is absolutely necessary. Nonetheless, a majority of graduating Ph.D. students nationwide are not licensed engineers for the reasons articulated above.

Requiring all engineering faculty to have licensure could place a notable limitation on the hiring pool available to public postsecondary institutions. Furthermore, the representative suggested that such a requirement might discourage premier candidates from applying for faculty positions at NMSU and other similar institutions.

Additionally, the representative suggested that the position articulated above is one that is held nationally by a majority of dean's of engineering at ABET accredited engineering colleges. This suggestion was reiterated by a representative from the University of New Mexico (UNM) School of Engineering. ABET does not specifically consider licensure as a requirement for accreditation.

GH/mc