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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/2/09

SPONSOR Cote LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 62

SHORT TITLE Military Child Educational Compact Review SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 311

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$1.0*			Non- Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 62 requests, contingent on the failure of HB 311 or similar legislation, that the public education department convene a task force that includes teachers and administrators from school districts with a high concentration of military children, representatives of the military community, a representative from the attorney general's office and other relevant and interested parties to review and make recommendations regarding the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

The task force's charge would be to:

- determine which components of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for

Military Children are currently being substantially implemented in New Mexico and which components are not currently being substantially implemented;

- study the implications of enacting the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, including the monetary and legal obligations imposed by the compact and any areas of state law that will be superseded by the compact;
- examine available methods, other than the enactment of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, for removing educational barriers facing children of military families; and
- report its findings to the public education department and the legislative education study committee by October 1, 2009;

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The PED reports no fiscal impact, but there would be some costs associated with convening the task force, evaluating the topics required in the memorial and preparing the report.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The average child of a military family attends six to nine different school systems during the child's school career.

Children of military families are often placed incorrectly in grades because their official transcripts come from other states or overseas, and some districts will not accept unofficial transcripts until official transcripts arrive.

Children of military families often face obstacles to graduating on time or in participating in honors or advanced placement courses because of different graduation and course requirements in the different states.

Children of military families often face obstacles to participating in extracurricular activities because of their late arrival during the school year or because of perceptions that they will only remain at a school temporarily.

Children of military families deserve the same opportunities for educational success and advancement as other children attending public schools in New Mexico.

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children is an attempt on the part of states to coordinate their efforts to remove educational barriers facing children of military families.

The PED notes On December 19, 2008, the sponsor of the bill sought an opinion from the New Mexico Attorney General “on any statutory or constitutional issues that this compact might present...”

Further, the PED comments that given that the Memorial will not take effect until June 19, 2009—when schools will be closed and many people take summer vacations—it will be a challenge to complete the study required by this Memorial by October 1st.

RELATIONSHIP

House Joint Memorial 62 is related to House Bill 311 which would enact the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The PED states:

Because the membership of the task force as described in the memorial appears one-sided and may not be perceived as taking into consideration of the views of individuals in all 89 school districts, request that:

Page 2, Line 19, after the word “districts” the words “and charter schools” be added;
Page 2, Line 19, after the word “with” the words “or without” be added; and
Page 2, Line 21, strike the word “relevant” add the words “educational stakeholders”.
(This is a more broad but deferential term to include business organizations, superintendent organizations, and charter school organizations, unions, parent organizations, scouts, and school board organizations.)

GH/mc