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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/08/09

SPONSOR Griego, P. LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE State Police College Credit Time Period SB 426

ANALYST Weber

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

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 426 amends Section 29-2-6 NMSA 1978 so that the State Police chief may appoint a member of the New Mexico state police who has at least thirty hours of college credit, and the chief shall determine an appropriate time period after appointment for the member to complete the additional thirty hours of college credit required. Current law requires the additional thirty hours of credit be completed within two years of appointment.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no apparent fiscal implications to the state.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DPS believes that formal education is an important part of an officer's career growth and is in favor of an educational requirement. Currently, officers are given 30 college credit hours upon completion of the State Police Academy. The officer is then required to get an additional 30 credit hours within the first two years of their appointment (providing they do not already have the credit hours.) This amendment allows the Chief to extend the time period the officer has to reach the 60 college credit hour requirement. Currently, the Chief has no discretion on the time

period and is forced to terminate officers who do not meet the requirement. In a time when finding qualified applicants is so challenging, the department must be able to retain as many good officers as possible.

State police in Colorado and Arizona must only have a high school degree or G.E.D. Texas requires an Associate's degree or a minimum of 90 semester hours from an accredited college or university.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Would it be better to just eliminate the 60 hour requirement than have subjective criteria for completion?

MW/mt