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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

1/26/16

SPONSOR Garcia Richard **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/5/16 17/aHGEIC/aHEC/aSF
LAST UPDATED 2/16/16 **HB** #1

SHORT TITLE Veteran Definition for Tuition **SB** _____

ANALYST Sánchez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI	NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Floor Amendment #1

Senate Floor amendment #1 to House Education Committee amendment to House Government, Election and Indian Affairs Committee amendment to House Bill 17 inserts the definition of "department", "secretary", and "veteran" as defined in the Veterans' Services Department Act. It also proposes to slightly change the definition of veteran in the Motor Vehicle Code (Section 66-3-412 NMSA 1978).

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

House Education Committee amendment to House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs Committee amendment to House Bill 17 removes "is a citizen of the United States" when describing a veteran.

Synopsis of HGEIC Amendment

House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs Committee amendment to House Bill 17 strikes "New Mexico resident" and inserts "person" instead when describing a veteran.

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 17 proposes to amend the definition of veteran to be in conformance with Section 9-22-3, NMSA 1978.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified since the institutions of higher education are following NMSA 1978 9-22-3 and the NMHED rule.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This bill changes the language of NMSA 1978 21-1-4.5 to comport with the definition of "veteran" in NMSA 1978 9-22-3. When NMSA 1978 9-22-3 was amended in 2012, it added all members of the reserves and their families, as well as members of the United States Public Health Service commissioned corps and the Nation Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration corps. The effect of this legislation will bring the two statutory definitions into agreement.

The failure to enact this legislation will permit divergent definitions of "veteran" in the New Mexico statutes.

ABS/al/jo/jle