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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Knauer DATE TYPED: 03/02/01 HB 781  
 SHORT TITLE: Raise Compulsory School Attendance Age SB \_\_\_\_\_  
 ANALYST: Segura

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY01	FY02	FY01	FY02		
	NFI				

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

State Department of Education (SDE)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 781 proposes to raise the age from 16 to 17, at which a student may be legally excused from the Compulsory School Attendance Act in order to pursue employment or an alternative form of education, with parental consent and local district approval.

#### Significant Issues

The dropout data for students grade9-12 (1998-1999) indicates that 2.9% (196) of dropouts left school in order to work and 12.9% (873) of dropout indicated they intended to take the GED. The data does not indicate the number of these students who were formally excused from Compulsory School Attendance pursuant to Section 2-12-2.

According to SDE, School that attempt to follow the enforcement provisions of the Compulsory School Attendance Act in Section 22-12-7 express concern that districts courts do not follow through with the penalties specified in law. The courts acknowledge that prosecution of truancy violations is a low priority due to heavy caseloads involving more serious violations of law.

The New Mexico's Children's Code also includes provisions for intervening with students and their families in cases of truancy. However, the Children Youth and Families Department does not consistently follow the processes outlined in law due to lack of sufficient resources.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

**House Bill 781 -- Page 2**

House Bill 781 does not contain an appropriation.

**CONFLICT/DUPLICATION/COMPANIONSHIP/RELATIONSHIP**

HB 36/a and SB674

RS/ar