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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Heaton DATE TYPED: 02/16/01 HB 246
 SHORT TITLE: Full-Day Kindergarten Programs SB _____
 ANALYST: Segura

APPROPRIATION

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

State Department of Education SDE

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 246 would amend Section 22-2-19 NMSA 1978 to include grade-level schools in the priority for full-day kindergarten programs. The bill includes the following:

1. Replaces the word “factor” with the word “index” to be consistent with the language in Section 22-8-23.3 NMSA 1978 regarding at-risk program units, and
2. Includes the word “ school” before the word district, for consistency purposes.

Significant Issues

According to SDE, current law gives priority for implementing full-day kindergarten to school districts with the highest proportion of students most in need based on an at-risk index and in schools with available classrooms. The index for determining at-risk classification includes the percentage of students who are limited English proficient and the percentage of student mobility and the percentage of students living in poverty in the school districts.

To include the grade-level schools in the at-risk index, SDE would need to modify the index to use a profile of students from other grade-level schools within the district that kindergarten students would attend.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

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House Bill 246 does not contain an appropriation. The current HB-3 includes \$17,500.0 for full-day kindergarten three year phase-in.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

According to SDE, the bill should include a clear definition of “ grade level schools” to also include those small districts that have only one elementary school which serves the entire school district. (see attachment)

RS/njw:ar
Attachment