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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Romero DATE TYPED: 01/25/02 HB

SHORT TITLE: High School Diplomas for World War II Vets SB 220

ANALYST: Chabot

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	NFI				

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files  
New Mexico State Department of Education (SDE)  
New Mexico Veterans' Service Commission (VSC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 220 provides for issuing high school diplomas to veterans of World War II provide they meet the following criteria:

- a. an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the United States;
- b. would have graduated from high school between 1940 and 1951;
- c. was a resident of New Mexico and attended a high school; and
- d. left high school to serve in World War II.

#### Significant Issues

SDE reports that 26 states have enacted or are proposing enactment of similar legislation to provide diplomas to World War II veterans who were unable to complete high school because of their participation in the war. Local school boards would be the issuing authority for the diploma. There is no estimate of how many veterans would be eligible for this program.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

SDE would have to develop policies and procedures for program implementation including developing forms, and documentation requirements. The program would need to be advertised, particularly within veterans' organizations, so that eligible veterans can be made aware that they maybe eligible to receive high school diplomas.

## **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. What proof would a World War II veteran need to apply for a diploma?
2. Should this program be extended to World War II veterans that currently reside in New Mexico but did not at the time of their entry into the war?

GAC/ar