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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Zanetti DATE TYPED 2-13-04 HB HJM 18

SHORT TITLE Study Testing Students in Their Home Language SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Segura

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY04	FY05	FY04	FY05		
			NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
New Mexico Public Education Committee (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 18 requests that the Public Education Department study the feasibility of testing students in their home language and requiring each school district to determine the appropriate assessments and appropriate test accommodations to be utilized for testing English Language Learners (Limited English-Proficient students). The memorial also requests that the Secretary of Public Education report all action taken with regard to this memorial to the appropriate interim committee prior to the first session of the 47<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

#### Significant Issues

According to PED, educational research has shown that assessment of English Language Learners is more accurate when the student is tested in their home language. Currently, students participating in the State Bilingual Education program can be assessed for proficiency in their home language as well as English. There are several standardized academic achievement tests written in the Spanish language; however, there are not standardized academic achievement tests written in Native American languages.

## **House Joint Memorial 18 -- Page 2**

If HJM 18 is enacted, this joint memorial would allow districts to better understand the need to develop assessment instruments in the home language for Native American students. They would also provide PED and districts with an estimate of costs to develop and administer such assessment instruments.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The department indicates that additional FTE may be needed to conduct the feasibility study.

RS/dm:lg