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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Nava DATE TYPED 2/9/04 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Tuition Payment for Higher Education Courses SB 145/aSFI#1

ANALYST Baca

APPROPRIATION

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB 226

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Public Education (PED)
Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SFI#1

Senate Floor Amendment #1 adds language that stipulates that the public school district shall pay tuition and fees for dually enrolled students unless the participating institution of higher education and the public school district agree to reduce or waive the tuition and fees. The amendment extends the language to include all institutions of higher education.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 145 amends Section 21-1-2 NMSA 1978 to require that school districts pay tuition and fees of public school students who receive high school credit for higher education course work.

Significant Issues

This bill “legalizes” the participation of four and six year institutions in dually enrolling students and requires that school districts pay the tuition of high school students receiving credit from both a university and a high school. This requirement is currently applied to activities between community colleges and school districts. There is, however, no uniform application, or enforcement, of this requirement. According to one source, this bill “simply levels the playing” field for universities and community colleges.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS/OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

This bill has no impact on the general fund, but it impacts both higher education institutions and school districts. School districts pay and institution of higher education receive the tuition of dually enrolled students. However, it is reported that not all school districts pay the tuition, and the higher education institution “eats” the loss of tuition. It is further reported that compliance with this requirement often rest on the “willingness” of the school district to remit the tuition. The statute requires written agreements between the school district and the institution of higher education, but these agreements are not always in place. Given the absence of uniformity in the application of this requirement, the student could be required to pay the tuition.

The CHE indicates that, in lieu of paying tuition for dually enrolled students, some school districts allow the institution to use school district facilities for the conduct of classes.

DUPLICATION

HB 226

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. How many school districts currently report they have dually enrolled students?
2. On a statewide basis, how many students are dually enrolled?
3. What steps are being taken to ensure that the provisions of the law are enforced?
4. Which agency is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the law?

LB/yr:dm:lg