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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Miera DATE TYPED 3-7-05 HB 137/aHAFC

SHORT TITLE Educational Assistant Licensing Framework SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Segura

### APPROPRIATION

| Appropriation Contained |      | Estimated Additional Impact |      | Recurring or Non-Rec | Fund Affected |
|-------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------|----------------------|---------------|
| FY05                    | FY06 | FY05                        | FY06 |                      |               |
|                         |      |                             |      |                      |               |
|                         |      |                             |      |                      |               |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

New Mexico School for the Deaf

### FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Amendment

House Appropriation and Finance Committee amended House Bill 137, the amendment **strikes the appropriation** and all language associated with future appropriations.

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 137 appropriates \$3,800.0 to establish a four-tiered licensure framework for educational assistants (EA's). The bill establishes the requirements for licensure and provides for minimum salary guarantees statewide for educational assistants at each licensure level.

#### Significant Issues

School districts must implement a career salary framework for EA's that supports the licensure system, including salary increments above the minimums based on training and experience. PED is authorized to promulgate transition rules and rules assuring that levels three and four meet the paraprofessional standards of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

House Bill 137 appropriates \$3,800.0 from the general fund and is recurring. The bill mandates the following minimum salaries for each level:

Level one- \$11,000, (already in effect);

Level two-\$13,000, effective in FY06. The Legislative Education Study Committee includes \$3,800.0 in their FY06 budget recommendation under the State Equalization Guarantee. The Legislative Finance Committee recommends \$1,500.0 for the statutory requirement of \$12,000 minimum annual salary. The executive does not make a funding recommendation for FY06;

Level three-\$15,000, effective in FY07;

Level four-\$17,000, effective in FY08.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

PED indicates that a minor rule change would be required for implementation and for those EA's who meet the standards of level four, a new license would have to be issued. The New Mexico School for the Deaf would need to amend advertising, hiring, and evaluation procedures, as necessary to reflect the changes.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

According to PED an EA may be issued a level three or four license if they qualify for those levels, without first holding levels one or two licensure. This is important for recruiting EAs who must meet the paraprofessional status required by NCLB.

**RS/lg**