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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/28/11
LAST UPDATED 03/17/11 **HB** _____

SPONSOR Nava

SHORT TITLE Student Teacher Alternative Curriculum **SB** 202

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 202 introduced on behalf of the Legislative Education Study Committee, amends Section 22-10A-20 NMSA (1) (K) to add permission for student teachers who meet certain standards to teach classes in schools on an approved alternative curricular plan for the 2011-2012 through 2013-2014 school years. The student teacher must be under the supervision of a cooperating teacher and must meet these standards:

- at least 4 years of prior experience in a school setting
- meets the qualifications established by the district or charter school
- meets the qualifications of the teacher preparation program in which they are enrolled

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Senate Bill 202 has no fiscal implications.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the PED:

Keeping in mind the Governor’s proposal of an easy-to-understand A – F school grading formula, it is important to note that schools with an A or B grade would probably be given the autonomy (based on performance) to make decisions such as placing a student teacher in a classroom as the lead teacher under the supervision of a mentor teacher.

A school with a C, D, or F grade would not have the autonomy to make such decisions as the PED would play a greater role in oversight of the school depending on the grade. A school with a C, D, or F would be required to ensure that content is taught by a highly qualified and licensed teacher.

Universities often have restrictions on student teaching such as the number of hours a student teacher may actually teach. Student teachers are usually enrolled in other university courses for completion of their teaching certificate and undergraduate/graduate degree. Performing as a full time teacher could potentially create an unusually heavy demand on many students. For example, the University of New Mexico’s College of Education recommends students enroll in no more than 15 semester hours while student teaching.

Most teacher education departments make student assignments to particular schools with little input from the student and limited input from the school itself. Additionally, not all universities require that student teaching assignments be for an entire school year.

If this bill is enacted, schools and districts should ensure a high level of cooperation with the universities in New Mexico in the process of acquiring student teachers that guarantees a clear agreement between student teacher, university, and local school.

Despite these concerns, the PED notes the bill would provide additional preparation for student teachers. This policy could result in better-trained teachers entering public school employment.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The PED states the bill is in conflict with statutes requiring those who teach in public school classrooms to be licensed or certified through the PED. If SB 202 is passed, NMSA 22-10A-3 (see statute below) will have to be amended to permit the use of student teachers.

NMSA 22-10A-3. License or certificate required; application fee; general duties.

- A. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any person teaching, supervising an instructional program or providing instructional support services in a public school or state agency; any person administering in a public school; and any person providing health care and administering medications or performing medical procedures in a public school shall hold a valid license or certificate from the department authorizing the person to perform that function. This subsection does not apply to a person performing the functions of a practice teacher as defined by the state board [department].

The PED suggests that in view of the apparent conflict, the author may wish to consider that student teachers apply for a substitute teacher's certificate under NMSA 22-10A-15 (Substitute Teacher Certificate). However substitute teachers are limited to teaching for a 45-day period in a single classroom and the superintendent or charter school administrator must submit a request to the secretary of education for permission to exceed the 45-day period as noted in NMAC 6.29.1.9.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The PED notes if this bill is not enacted, individual schools will continue to hire licensed teachers.

GH/bym:svb