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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/24/11

SPONSOR Lopez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Child Care or Pre-K Program Requirements SB 448

ANALYST Peery-Galon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 448 states the Children, Youth and Families Department, through its STAR level of licensure or any other rule or standard of the department, is not to require a person who owns or is employed by a licensed child care or private pre-kindergarten to possess a bachelor's degree.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

CYFD stated the department would not be able to distribute funding to licensed child care or private pre-kindergarten programs from sources that have a bachelor's degree requirement as part of the funding or staffing requirements.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The lead teacher in each pre-kindergarten classroom must hold a valid New Mexico early childhood teacher license: birth through third grade. If pre-kindergarten programs are not able to recruit and hire licensed teachers, teachers not meeting the standard will be expected to document work toward meeting these requirements in their professional development plan and make continuous progress toward meeting these requirements within five years of employment.

CYFD reported the proposed legislation would make childcare programs ineligible for New Mexico pre-kindergarten funds. Other non-public and governmental agencies would maintain their eligibility and be able to apply for and operate pre-kindergarten programs, such as community action programs, institutions of higher education, head start agencies, United Way agencies, cities and counties.

CYFD noted the proposed legislation would make childcare programs ineligible for any funding from a funding source that requires a bachelor's degree. Also, the proposed legislation would prevent the department from requiring that any personnel employed by the childcare program have a bachelor's level licensure or certification in order to perform funded responsibilities (e.g. nurses, social workers, counselors, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, etc.).

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD has performance measures related to the quality of childcare programs. The department reported decreased licensure requirements could affect that quality.

CYFD has the following performance measures for child care and pre-kindergarten:

- Percent of Children receiving state subsidy in stars/aim high programs level two through five or with national accreditation. FY10 actual was 69.8 percent.
- Percent of licensed childcare providers participating in stars/aim high levels two through five or with national accreditation. FY10 actual was 70.7 percent.
- Percent of children in state-funded prekindergarten showing measurable progress on the preschool readiness kindergarten tool. FY10 actual was 70.2 percent.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD reported the proposed legislation would result in different degree requirements for New Mexico pre-kindergarten programs operated under the auspices of the Children, Youth and Families Department from those operated under the auspices of the Public Education Department. Historically the program standards have been the same for this jointly administered program.

RPG/bym