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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Pinto ORIGINAL DATE 2/9/16
 LAST UPDATED _____ HJM _____

SHORT TITLE Diné College Act into Federal Law SJM 15

ANALYST Dulany

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates House Joint Memorial 7

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 15 resolves that the State of New Mexico stands in support of the passage of the federal Diné College Act of 2015 and urges the New Mexico congressional delegation to ensure its passage into federal law.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No Fiscal Implications.

Although the college does not receive direct instruction and general support from the State of New Mexico, Diné College, as one of four tribal colleges in the state, is eligible to receive funding from the tribal college dual credit program fund for dual credit courses offered through an agreement with public high schools.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the United States Congressional website, the Diné College Act of 2015, introduced by Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick of Arizona, authorizes Diné College to receive federal funding and resources for its operation, improvement, and growth, including to:

- provide higher education programs and vocational and technical education for citizens of the Navajo Nation and others;
- preserve and protect the Navajo language, philosophy, and culture for citizens of the Navajo Nation and others;
- provide Navajo communities and people with employment and training opportunities;
- provide economic development and community outreach for Navajo communities and people; and
- provide a safe learning, working, and living environment for students, employees, and the public.

The act directs the U.S. Department of the Interior to fund the operation and maintenance of the college separately from tribal colleges and universities recognized and funded by the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978.

According to HED, Diné College main campus is in Tsaile, Arizona. It has seven branches including campuses in Shiprock and Crownpoint, New Mexico. It offers about 25 or more associate degrees, several certificate programs, and baccalaureate degrees in elementary education and business administration.

Diné College has been reporting data to HED since 2013 and has shown a steady growth in enrollment, according to the department.

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