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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Munoz ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/20
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Diplomas For Vietnam Veterans SB 99
ANALYST Gaussoin

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY20	FY21	FY22	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI	NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

No Response Received

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 99 would allow local school boards to award a high school diploma to any honorably discharged veteran of the Vietnam whose entry to service prevented the graduation from a New Mexico high school. The diploma can be awarded regardless of whether the veteran holds a high school equivalency credential or is deceased. Those eligible have to have been scheduled to graduate between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975.

The effective date of this bill is July 1, 2020.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

PED would be required to promulgate regulations implementing Senate Bill 99, and local school boards would have to process and authenticate the requests, but neither of these duties is likely to represent a significant cost.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Existing law already authorizes local school boards to issue high school diploma to World War II and Korean veterans.

Those eligible would approximately be between the ages of 62 and 76. It is unknown how many would qualify but is likely to be a small number.

DMA says, “This bill is a very inexpensive way to honor the Vietnam veterans. Requirements to prove eligibility should be minimal and should consist of proof of service.”

HFG/rl