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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Carraro DATE TYPED: 2/3/03 HB _____

SHORT TITLE: Alternative Teaching Certification SB 192

ANALYST: L. Baca

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From

State Department of Education (SDE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 192 amends the Public School Code to allow the State Board of Education (SBE) to waive teacher certification requirements regarding education and student teaching if it determines that an applicant is otherwise qualified by reason of the applicant's education or training.

Significant Issues

This legislation addresses the teacher shortage in New Mexico by allowing the SBE to certify individuals without meeting certain licensure requirements. However, the SDE reports, "the SBE currently allows candidates for alternative licensure to qualify for a license without student teaching if they proceed by way of portfolio assessment." A related issue is whether these individuals would be considered "properly" endorsed for the assigned teaching areas, and, if so, whether this type of certification would comply with the provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements that every classroom have a "highly qualified" teacher.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

In its analysis, the SDE suggests that “in order to avoid waiver of standards for some people and not others and not operate counter to NCLB, the bill would be better written to specify that other options are possible in order to satisfy the general degree requirements and student teaching. In this way, no requirements would be waived, but people could be licensed under other paths.”

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Will allowing waivers as provided for in this bill lead to more teachers being considered “unendorsed” for their teaching areas?
2. If enacted, will the SBE be allowed to certify persons who have not earned a college degree?
3. Current statutes require student teaching experience as a prerequisite for certification. Does this bill suggest it is not a useful and necessary experience?
4. Does this bill bring into question all of the other certification requirements?

LRB/njw