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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Taylor DATE TYPED 2/08/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Educational Assistant Licensing Framework SB 523

ANALYST Segura

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$3,800.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Public Education Department (PED)
New Mexico School for the Deaf

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 523 appropriates \$3,800.0 to establish a four-tiered licensure framework for educational assistants (EA's). The bill establishes the requirements for licensure and provides for minimum salary guarantees statewide for educational assistants at each licensure level.

Significant Issues

School districts must implement a career salary framework for EA's that supports the licensure system, including salary increments above the minimums based on training and experience. PED is authorized to promulgate transition rules and rules assuring that levels three and four meet the paraprofessional standards of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Senate Bill 523 appropriates \$3,800.0 from the general fund and is recurring. The bill mandates the following minimum salaries for each level:

Level one- \$11,000, (already in effect);

Level two-\$13,000, effective in FY06. The Legislative Education Study Committee includes \$3,800.0 in their FY06 budget recommendation under the State Equalization Guarantee. The Legislative Finance Committee recommends \$1,500.0 for the statutory requirement of \$12,000 minimum annual salary. The executive does not make a funding recommendation for FY06;

Level three-\$15,000, effective in FY07;

Level four-\$17,000, effective in FY08.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED indicates that a minor rule change would be required for implementation and for those EA's who meet the standards of level four, a new license would have to be issued. The New Mexico School for the Deaf would need to amend advertising, hiring, and evaluation procedures, as necessary to reflect the changes.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to PED an EA may be issued a level three or four license if they qualify for those levels, without first holding levels one or two licensure. This is important for recruiting EAs who must meet the paraprofessional status required by NCLB.

RMS/sb