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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/5/06

SPONSOR Robinson LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Increase Albuquerque-Area School Faculty SB 676

ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Non-Rec | Fund Affected |
|---------------|---------|-------------------------|------------------|
| FY06 | FY07 | | |
| | 1,000.0 | Recurring | General Fund |
| | | | |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 676 appropriates \$1 million from the general fund to the public education department for the purpose of increasing the number of faculty members at schools within the Highland and Manzano clusters in the Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) and to add at least one additional social worker to each cluster.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill provides additional funding to increase the number of faculty members at specific school within APS. This would alter the distribution of funds to school districts affecting the State Equalization Guarantee (SEG) distribution. The SEG is in place to assure all public school students access to programs and services. Naming specific school clusters and providing funding outside of the SEG would be in opposition to the tenet of equal funding independent of local circumstances and may expose the state to lawsuits by other school districts. PED points out that the potential of disequalizing the funding formula for other districts.

The appropriation of \$1 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This bill would alter long-established precedent of local school boards making personnel decisions regarding the number of teachers assigned to schools

The idea of providing additional teachers to schools, in general, is accepted as a method of lowering classroom size which is shown to improve student achievement.

Additional social worker availability would support resolution of student issues both in and out of schools.

PA/yr