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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stewart **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/24/11
LAST UPDATED 02/22/11 **HB** 74/aHEC

SHORT TITLE Science of Teaching Reading Requirement **SB** _____

ANALYST Hoffmann

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
NFI	NFI	n/a	None

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to House Bill 70.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Education Committee Amendment

The House Education Committee amendment to House Bill 74 would postpone until January 1, 2013 the effective date of the science of teaching reading requirement for level one licensure.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 74 would add to current teacher licensure requirements a “rigorous assessment of the candidate's knowledge of the science of teaching reading” within the current New Mexico teacher assessment examination.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House Bill 74 makes no appropriations.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The PED provides the following background information.

Currently, a New Mexico level one teaching license is a provisional five-year license for beginning teachers. The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) issues a standard level one license to an applicant who:

1. holds a baccalaureate degree from an accredited educational institution;
2. has successfully completed a department-approved teacher preparation program from a nationally accredited or state-approved educational institution;
3. has passed the New Mexico teacher assessments examination; and
4. meets other qualifications for level one licensure, including clearance of the required background check.

House Bill 74 adds an additional requirement to licensure by adding the following requirement - a rigorous assessment of the candidate's knowledge of the science of teaching reading.

Scientifically-based research in teacher education stems from the Federal 2001 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law that requires states and districts to implement programs and practices with a proven track record of improving student academic achievement. To say that an instructional program or practice is grounded in scientifically based research means there is reliable evidence that the program or practice works. For example, to obtain reliable evidence about a reading strategy or instructional practice, an experimental study may be done that involves using an experimental/control group design to see if the method is effective in teaching children to read.

NCLB sets forth rigorous requirements to ensure that research is scientifically based. It moves the testing of educational practices toward the medical model used by scientists to assess the effectiveness of medications, therapies and the like. Studies that test random samples of the population and that involve a control group are scientifically controlled. To gain scientifically based research about a particular educational program or practice, it must be the subject of such a study. NCLB requires support for those programs that teach children five skills (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension). These skills have been shown to be critical to early reading success through years of scientifically based research on the practice of reading instruction.

The New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) cautions that “the science of teaching reading” is an ever expanding field of pedagogies, and sophisticated alignment between the teacher assessment examination and the New Mexico colleges and universities teacher preparation programs will be needed. This alignment is needed to ensure that education students are prepared in the teaching reading methods assessed or New Mexico could suffer a sharp decline in successful level one licensure candidates.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The PED suggests that successful implementation of additional assessments and correct alignment of teacher programs to the assessment could lead to level one teacher license holders with stronger reading teaching skills sets. Lack of alignment could lead to few licensed teachers.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 74 is related to House Bill 70, which proposes “prohibiting general fund distributions to public post-secondary educational institutions that have colleges of education or teacher preparation programs that do not instruct students in how to teach reading that is based on scientifically based reading research and the science of reading and which courses are aligned with state reading standards and meet other requirements.” However, neither bill would preclude the intent of the other if one were to fail to pass.

JCH/svb:bym