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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/09/11

SPONSOR Rehm LAST UPDATED _____ HB 132

SHORT TITLE ROTC as Physical Education Requirement SB _____

ANALYST Gudgel

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY11	FY12	FY13	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY11	FY12	FY13	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		See Fiscal Implications				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 132 allows participation in the reserve officer training corps (ROTC) to satisfy the one required unit of physical education required to receive a New Mexico Diploma of Excellence.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House bill 132 has minimal fiscal impact. Junior ROTC (JROTC) is partially funded by the federal government. Each service is responsible to pay for operating costs, equipment, supplies and uniforms for students, and a portion of each instructor's salary. Because all instructors are retired, school districts are required to pay the difference between the instructor's salary and what the instructor would receive if they were on active duty. The service then reimburses the district for approximately half of amount paid by the school district. Allowing JROTC courses to qualify for required physical education credits would decrease district operational costs minimally.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In order to graduate, students entering the 9th grade beginning in the 2009-2010 school year are required to complete a minimum of 24 units aligned to state academic content and performance standards, including one unit of physical education. This bill would allow participation in JROTC to count as the required unit of physical education. Each Service, as required by U.S. Congress, has established a junior ROTC program for high school students. Schools wishing to offer JROTC must have a minimum number of students wishing to participate before JROTC will be offered. Each program includes a Service-provided curriculum that is aligned with the core mission of each Service, rather than aligned to state academic content and performance standards. For example, the Air Force JROTC is a 120 hour a year program, minimum, with 60 percent instruction in aerospace science and 40 percent instruction in leadership education. Each service is responsible for paying for operating costs, equipment, supplies and uniforms for students, and a portion of each instructor's salary. Instructors are retired military with specialized JROTC instructor certification. JROTC instructors do not currently have to be licensed by the public education department.

The Public Education Department points out ROTC is currently offered as a set of elective courses because it follows military guidelines, rather than adopted State content standards with benchmarked and performance standards that must be measured. Physical education teachers are required to hold a PED license with an endorsement in physical education, while JROTC instructors are not required to be licensed by PED.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

All instructors of core academic classes are required to be “highly qualified” under No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). This requires a bachelor's degree and demonstrated competency in the area being taught. Allowing JROTC instructors to teach core physical education credits might decrease the percentage of instructors meeting the NCLB definition of “highly qualified.”

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Public Education Department would be required to amend current rules to allow participation in ROTC to count for the required physical education credit.

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