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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/22/17

SPONSOR Smith/Ivey-Soto **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** 279

SHORT TITLE Publish School District Report Cards Online **SB** _____

ANALYST Fernandez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		(>\$10.0)			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 279 amends the section of the Public School Code to require school districts or state-chartered schools to publish annual accountability reports on the websites of PED, the school district or charter school. Currently, school districts or charter schools must publish annual accountability reports in a local newspaper.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

According to PED, the current requirement for local school districts and charter schools to publish the annual accountability reports in local newspapers incur costs that can range from \$7.9-\$43 thousand for a small district (5 page report) to \$31.5 - \$173.6 thousand for a large school district (20 page report). The range is based on the cost to advertise in the Santa Fe New Mexican which charges \$22.50/column inch and the Albuquerque Journal which charges \$124/column inch.

This bill could result in a cost savings to local school districts and charter schools. The exact amount cannot be determined as additional costs might be incurred to publish the information on the respective websites. Any savings could be reprioritized by the local school district or state-charter school to other purposes.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to PED, changing the requirement to publish annual accountability reports from newspaper to websites has the following advantages:

- Public readership could be increased. PED cites a study by Pew Research which indicates that as much as twice as many people refer to read their news from electronic media compared to print media.
- Printing costs are expensive compared to costs to post on websites.
- It is possible that posting on websites would give local school districts and charter schools with more flexibility to provide additional information and thus increasing public transparency.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HB279 does not provide an alternative mechanism for interested parties or the general public to access the school accountability reports in the event they do not have access to a computer or the internet.

CF/al/jle