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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/19
 LAST UPDATED 3/11/19 HB _____

SPONSOR Muñoz

SHORT TITLE Tuition & Fee Waivers for Foster Children SB 251

ANALYST Hawker

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	Indeterminate but minimal					

Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Higher Education Department (HED)

New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 251 amends 21-1-4.7 NMSA 1978, providing postsecondary education tuition and fee waivers to any student who on or after their 14th birthday was in the legal custody of CYFD or placed into the legal custody of New Mexico Indian nation, tribe, or pueblo or the U. S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Human Services.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

It is not known how many children in foster care are taking postsecondary education courses outside of dual credit courses.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In 21-1-1.2 NMSA 1978, “dual credit course” means a postsecondary course that may be academic or career-technical but not remedial or developmental ... for which a student simultaneously earns credit toward high school graduation and a postsecondary degree or certificate.

Currently tuition and fee waivers are provided for any student who, on the day preceding their 18th birthday, were in the legal custody of CYFD or placed into the legal custody of New Mexico Indian nation, tribe, or pueblo or the U. S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Human Services.

Children in foster care typically age out of foster care by age 18, but in some instances may remain in foster care through age 21. In New Mexico, approximately 18 percent of the foster care population are aged 14 or older. For the point-in-time reporting period ending June 30, 2018, approximately 430 foster care children were 14 or older.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD issues letters confirming a confirming a child's participation in foster care on request. Any increase in requests will be absorbed by existing resources.

VKH/al/sb