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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/29/09
LAST UPDATED 03/19/09 **HB** _____

SPONSOR Kernan

SHORT TITLE Teacher Licensure Changes **SB** 133/aSEC/aHEC

ANALYST Aguilar

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non Rec	Fund Affected
Total	Indeterminate, See Below	Indeterminate, See Below In	Indeterminate, See Below	Indeterminate, See Below	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Conflicts with SB-123, SB124
 Companion to HB-234

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)
 Office of Education Accountability (OEA)
 Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee amendment to Senate Bill 133 as amended strikes the Senate Education Committee amendment and inserts the same language to a different part of the bill.

The effect of the amendment changes the requirement that both teachers and counselors meet the requirements for a level 3-B license to only teacher having to meet the requirement. Counselors would only have to hold the highest-ranked counselor license for four years to be eligible for a level 3-B license.

Synopsis of SEC Amendment

The Senate Education Committee amendment to Senate Bill 133 adds a requirement that applicants for a level 3-B administrators license meet the requirements for a level three 3-A teachers license.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

A review of Chapter 22-10A NMSA 1978 and 6.63.6.8 NMAC does not indicate a licensure requirement that a school counselor be a licensed teacher. By adding this requirement it appears that the amendment removes school counselors from those eligible for a level three-B license.

It appears this amendment was included to address concerns raised regarding the possibility that national board certified teachers could move into administration without an advanced degree but an unintended consequence could be the exception of counselors from eligibility.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 133 eliminates the requirement that potential principals must teach for one year while holding a level three-A teaching license. In addition, the bill provides school districts facing a shortage of qualified candidates with an opportunity to obtain a provisional school principal licensure for level two teachers who meet certain requirements and who have been identified as potential school leaders.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None Noted.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In 2007, a joint report by the OEA, LESC, and LFC revealed that New Mexico required prospective principals to have more years of teaching experience (7 years) than any other state and voiced the concern that such requirements might limit the pool of potential applicants. Additional data gathered by the SJM 3 workgroups during the spring and summer of 2008 indicated that a number of potential principals considered the seven year teaching requirement a barrier.

SB 133 addresses this concern by removing the requirement that prospective principals must teach for 1 year while holding the Three-A teaching license reducing the total number of years of teaching experience to six years. If teachers meet all other requirements for the administrative license, they would be eligible for a 3-B administrative license.

SB-133 also provides that potential administrators have either a post-baccalaureate degree or national board for professional teacher standards certification. This section is of some concern since because an advanced degree is not required to receive a national board certification and once an administrative license is issued there is no further educational requirement. This could result in senior level administrators possessing only a bachelors degree.

SB 133 also provides a mechanism for school districts facing shortages of qualified principals to recruit Level 2 teachers into the administrative ranks. The bill requires these teachers to have at least three years experience at Level 2 and have the potential to become effective leaders. School districts, rather than the individuals themselves, would make the recommendation for provisional licensure for school principals. The individual would then enroll in a department-approved induction and mentoring program in the applying district. In addition, the individual would enroll in a department approved administrative preparation program. The provisional license would be renewable for up to four years.

Principals with provisional administrative licenses would be eligible for regular 3-B administrative license if they had received satisfactory evaluations each year of the Provisional License; satisfactorily completed the induction and mentoring program; successfully completed a department-approved courses in administration and a department-approved administration apprenticeship program; holds a post-baccalaureate degree; and successfully completed the Professional Development Dossier process for advance to Level 3-A licensure.

CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP

Companion to SB124: Creating The School Leadership Institute and SB123: Including Administrators In The Uniform Statewide Educator Accountability Reporting System.

SB 133 conflicts with HB 234 School Administrator Licensure Consideration in that HB 234 proposes a different set of requirements for individuals interested in becoming school administrators.

PA/svb:mt