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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Candelaria ORIGINAL DATE 2/16/16
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Degrees as Experience for P.I. License SB 287

ANALYST Liu

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY16	FY17	FY18	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Regulation and Licensing Department (RLD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 287 allows associate's or baccalaureate degrees in a relevant program of study to be considered qualifying experience for a private investigator's license.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant fiscal impacts. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, New Mexico had the third highest concentration of private detectives and investigators employed by location (mostly in central New Mexico) in 2014, indicating oversaturation of the profession in small areas. Employment of private detectives and investigators is projected to grow 5 percent from 2014 to 2024, slightly lower than the average for all occupations. As such, additional revenue generated from licensing fees and administrative costs to process applications is expected to be minimal.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This bill considers, for relevant college degrees, an associate's degree equivalent to 2,000 hours and a baccalaureate degree equivalent to 4,000 hours of qualifying experience for a private investigators license. However, the bill does not allow for college credits to be used as partial experience for license qualification. According to 16.48.2.9 NMAC, applicants must provide

proof of 6,000 hours of experience that has been acquired within the last five years with the department to qualify for a private investigator license.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill uses the term “relevant” to determine what fields of study would be allowed. According to RLD, it is unclear what fields of study would meet the requirement for credit towards qualification as a private investigator. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, some states require private detectives and investigators to obtain a two- or four-year degree in fields like criminal justice or police science.

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