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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
53rd Legislature, 1st Session, 2017

Bill Number	<u>HB135</u>	Sponsor	<u>Trujillo, CH</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.205496.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HEC/HAFC</u>
Short Title	<u>Early Childhood Teacher Development</u>		
Analyst	<u>McCorquodale</u>	Original Date	<u>1/31/17</u>
		Last Updated	<u>2/28/17</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 135 (HB135) appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) to fund a workforce and professional development program to increase the quality of early childhood education for children from birth through kindergarten eligibility.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to CYFD for expenditure in FY18. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY18 shall revert to the general fund.

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bill 2 for FY18 include \$1.3 million for professional development and retention initiatives for early childhood education services. Since FY16, CYFD has received flat funding for early childhood professional development.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HB135 would fund retention incentives, continuing education, and professional development programs for educators who qualify under CYFD rules. Provisions would require CYFD to contract with nonprofit entities for the implementation and management of the workforce and professional development program.

LFC stated CYFD has managed scholarships and retention incentives for early childhood educators in New Mexico for more than 10 years. In FY16, CYFD provided 869 scholarships for early childhood educators and 231 participated in incentive wage supplements statewide. Outcomes included:

- 6,531 total credits were earned at New Mexico public education institutions;
- 463 scholarship participants had a high school education and began postsecondary education opportunities;
- 398 scholarship participants were first generation secondary-education participants; and
- 75 percent of incentive wage supplements were awarded to minority participants.

Research clearly points out that training and professional development of early educators is the primary indicator of program quality and is the most significant predictor of children's success when they reach the primary grades. Furthermore, research indicates the consistency of personnel is a significant factor in children's learning.

LFC stated CYFD has been able to increase the quality of early care and education for children prenatal to five years through professional development by partnering with public and private partnerships. It is estimated in New Mexico there are more than 26 thousand individuals (primarily minority women) who earn their livelihood as child care providers or educators.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HB135 requires CYFD to contract with a nonprofit entity or entities for the implementation and management of a workforce and professional development program. This requirement will limit CYFD's ability to contract with for-profit or public governmental entities.

RELATED BILLS

HB173, Early Childhood Teacher Development, appropriates \$2 million for workforce and professional development for early childhood educator development.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Legislative Finance Committee

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