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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lopez ORIGINAL DATE 2/07/2020
LAST UPDATED 2/13/2020 HB _____
SHORT TITLE School Credit for Transfer Students SB 130/aSEC
ANALYST Gaussoin

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

| | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|--------------|------|------|------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Total | | NFI | | | | |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB341 (2019)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

No Response Received

Public Education Department (PED)

Albuquerque Public Schools (APS)

Regional Education Cooperatives (RECs)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SEC Amendment

The Senate Education Committee amendment to Senate Bill 130 alters the authority for creating policy on how to determine credit for partial courses. The original bill would have provided that authority to the school districts in consultation with PED. The amendment authorizes PED directly.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 130 requires public schools to give students transferring between schools (due to a disruption during high school for homelessness, abuse or neglect, delinquency, or inpatient mental health treatment) credit for any work completed prior to the transfer, regardless of

whether the transfer occurs at the end of a grading period. The bill requires school districts and PED to create policies that determine how credit shall be awarded for courses that are partially completed.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed that the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

PED did not provide analysis for SB130, but in its comments on SB341 from the 2019 session, it said similar language would have no major fiscal impact.

While student mobility impacts the public school funding formula, SB130 is unlikely to affect overall student mobility rates in New Mexico.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB130 adds language to 22-12-10 NMSA 1978 similar to that included in SB341 from the 2019 legislative session, enacted in session law as Chapter 218. However, HB236 from the 2019 session repealed 22-12-10 and was signed into law (Chapter 223) after HB341. When conflicting legislation is adopted during a session, the legislation signed into law last takes precedence.

CYFD notes children in foster care experience more moves than their peers, and these moves often result in school changes outside of the “normal” breaks in the school year and lost credits. Children in foster care have lower graduation rates as a result of numerous placements and school changes, the department says. A joint task force established by the state Supreme Court proposed in 2012 that state law be amended to allow for partial credit. CYFD notes similar factors affect youth in the juvenile justice system.

In its analysis of SB341 (2019), PED noted ensuring the award of partial credit might benefit students subject to disruptions and later able to access a course similar to one that they did not complete; however, partial credit for core academic requirements may be more difficult to measure equally. PED also raised concerns about how partial credits might be counted toward the total needed for graduation, noting complexities with unaligned coursework and with how partial courses would be fractionalized.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Requiring schools accept partial credits might help some students graduate and improve graduation rates overall. CYFD reports it has performance measures related to child health and well-being and tracks the graduation rates for children in foster care through NYTD data.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SB130 would require school districts to adopt policies on credit transfers for disrupted students. CYFD indicates any administrative impact required to ensure the county juvenile detention centers are in compliance with the requirements of this bill would be absorbed by existing resources.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

SB341 (2019) used similar language to accomplish the same change.

HFG/al/rl