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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Sedillo Lopez ORIGINAL DATE 2/13/2020
 LAST UPDATED 2/14/2020 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Corrections System Coursework Report SM 61/aSPAC

ANALYST Rabin

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY20	FY21	FY22	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		No Fiscal Implications				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HM63

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD)

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

Responses Not Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Workforce Solutions Department (WSD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SPAC Amendment

The Senate Public Affairs Committee amendment requires the working group to report on its findings the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) in addition to other appropriate legislative interim committees.

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 61 instructs the secretaries of the Corrections Department (NMCD), Higher Education Department (HED), and Workforce Solutions Department (WSD) to convene a working group to report on coursework taught within the corrections system that results in a certificate or associate or baccalaureate degree and any clearly defined barriers or opportunities faced by students in education programs offered by NMCD. The group is instructed to present its findings to the appropriate legislative interim committees.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

NMCD states that its participation in this working group can be accomplished with existing resources and will not have a fiscal impact on the department. At the time of this writing, HED and WSD had not yet supplied analysis; it is assumed they would be similarly able to participate without requiring additional resources.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMCD notes that the department currently maintains list of all coursework taught within correctional facilities. The agency adds: “NMCD is fully capable and willing to participate and report on said coursework, as well as list any barriers or recommended new opportunities discovered during the interim working group.”

New Mexico State University (NMSU) notes that two of its community colleges currently offer coursework leading to certificates in the corrections system, so the findings and recommendations of the working group established in SM61 may have implications for those colleges. Currently, NMSU Grants offers a basic certificate in computer technology at Western New Mexico Correctional Facility and Springer Correctional Center, and will soon offer it at Northwestern New Mexico Correctional Center. NMSU Doña Ana Community College offers a certificate in HVAC at the Otero County Prison Facility.

RELATIONSHIP

SM61/aSPAC relates to HM63, which is almost a duplicate of this memorial but does not require the working group to report to LESC.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

NMCD notes SM61 does not specify a date for the working group to report its finding to the Legislature.

ER/sb/al