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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Garratt/ Padilla/ Lara **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/29/21 **LAST UPDATED** 02/08/21 **HB** 22/aHEC

SHORT TITLE Grow Your Own Teachers Act **SB** _____

ANALYST Becerra

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY21	FY22	FY23	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
LESC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee amendment to House Bill 22 (HB22) adds a new section to the bill that establishes the duties of an educational assistant and institutes a licensure system for educational assistants. To address the concern of scholarship recipients losing their rights to professional leave if, after initially qualifying for the program, they fall out of eligibility due to a change in their financial status, the HEC amendment to HB22 grants professional leave to licensed educational assistants who are enrolled in or accepted by an undergraduate teacher preparation program in the state.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 22 (HB22) expands eligibility for the Grow Your Own Teachers Act scholarship program to allow public school employees who have worked directly with students for two years to qualify. The bill also expands eligibility to allow school employees to qualify if they are authorized to work in the United States. The bill clarifies professional leave for scholarship recipients should minimize disruption with the school day and allows public schools to require school employees to make up work hours missed during the school day.

The effective date of this bill is July, 1, 2021.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill does not include an appropriation.

The bill adds language to clarify that money in the fund is subject to legislative appropriation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Current eligibility of the Grow Your Own Teachers Act includes educational assistants who are U.S. citizens and residents of New Mexico and have worked in a public school for at least two years. HB22 would expand eligibility to include all public school employees who have worked directly with students for two years if they are authorized to work in the United States and are in good standing with the school district.

By expanding eligibility qualifications for Grow Your Own Teacher scholarships, HB22 has the potential to add to the pool of teacher candidates in New Mexico.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB22 requires the Higher Education Department (HED) to collaborate with the Public Education Department (PED) any time the department promulgates rules relating to the Grow Your Own Teachers Act.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

In their analysis of the bill, PED notes it is unclear what is meant by “good standing with the school district,” within the definition of an eligible school employee.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

In FY20, 43 students received Grow Your Own Teachers Act scholarships. For FY21, 104 scholarships have been awarded so far. Scholarships are awarded twice a year and HED estimates 150 individuals will receive Grow Your Own Teachers Act scholarships in FY21.

Since the program was created in 2019, the Legislature has appropriated \$1 million to support this scholarship program. A total of \$500 thousand was appropriated to the HED to be awarded in FY19 and FY20. In FY21, \$500 thousand was appropriated to the PED. HED administers the program; PED has not yet transferred the appropriation to HED. In lieu of an appropriation in FY21, HED distributed the remaining \$341 thousand left in the fund after awards in FY19 and FY20 to educator preparation programs.