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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Gubbels DATE TYPED: 2-12-02 HB 364

SHORT TITLE: Accredited Private Schools Technology Funding SB _____

ANALYST: Segura

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

State Department of Education(SDE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 364 amends the Technology for Education Act, Section 22-15A-1 NMSA 1978, Laws 1994, Chapter 96, Section 1.

- Allow accredited private schools to receive a distribution from the Educational Technology Fund;
- Clarifies the definition of an accredited private school;
- Clarifies the definition of software technology as computer software, video and audio laser and CD-ROM discs or video and audio tapes used to enhance learning by students and that do not purport to teach religious tenets, doctrines or worship;
- Modifies Council on Technology in Education membership to include one member who has expertise in private schooling; and
- Requires that the private school community collaborate with the Educational Technology Bureau in review of required long-range strategic technology plans and annual reports.

Significant Issues

If enacted, House Bill 364 would provide a new section of the Technology for Education Act regarding eligibility of private schools:

- Any qualified student or person eligible to become a qualified student attending an accredited private school in any grade from 1st through 12th grade is entitled to the free use of software technology; Kindergarten students in accredited private school will be counted as one half-full time equivalent;
- Software technology shall be distributed to accredited schools as agents for the benefit of students entitled to the free use of software technology; and
- Any accredited private school is responsible for distribution of the software technology for use by students and for the safekeeping of software technology.

Currently, the distribution of funds for instructional materials, Section 22-15-9, allows the allocation of public funds to accredited, non-public school students.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The department indicates that public schools are currently funded through the Technology for Education at \$6,000.0.

The department estimates that an additional \$360.0 is needed to fund school students and non-public school students in FY03.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

According to SDE, the bill would require substantial collaboration between the private school community and the Educational Technology Bureau.

DUPLICATION

House Bill 364 duplicates Senate Bill 89.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The department sites a United States Supreme Court decision in , Mitchell v. Helms, US, 120 S.Ct. 2530, (2000) and an Attorney General Opinion that may conflict with existing policy or programs.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL ?

Students attending accredited private schools will not have the benefit of the use of software technology made available pursuant to the Technology for Education Act.

RS/njw