

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rodella DATE TYPED 02/10/05 HB 210/aHGUAC

SHORT TITLE College Credit Requirement for State Police SB _____

ANALYST Ford

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
			See Narrative		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HGUAC Amendment

The House Government and Urban Affairs Committee amendment requires members of the New Mexico state police to have completed 30 hours of college credit at the time of their appointment.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 210 removes the current requirement that members of the New Mexico state police have completed college credit hours and requires instead that state police have received a high school diploma or its equivalent at the time of their appointment.

Significant Issues

Current law requires state police to have completed not less than 60 hours of college credit at the time of their appointment or have completed 30 hours of credit and, no later than 2 years following appointment, have completed the additional 30 hours of credit.

According to DPS, recruits are accepted into state police recruit schools without any college credit hours. The state police have partnered with the San Juan Community College to ensure that all applicants receive 30 college credit hours upon graduating from recruit school. However, recruits have to pay this cost themselves, which is approximately \$300.

All newly commissioned officers have two years to obtain the remaining college credit. Officers who fail to meet the 60 credit requirement are usually terminated unless extenuating circumstances exist.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

DPS indicates there would be no fiscal impact because the cost to obtain the necessary college credits is borne by the officers.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The cost of obtaining the necessary credits is borne by the officers. For those who enter recruit schools without any credits can earn 30 credits through the state police's partnership with San Juan Community College at a cost of approximately \$300. The officer must then earn the remaining credits and his/her own cost over the next two years. For officers stationed in remote areas, lack of access to community college may pose an obstacle to this effort.

ALTERNATIVES

DPS suggests that possible alternatives would be to keep the current requirement but allow officers up to three years to obtain the additional credit following recruit school, or to allow the state police chief the latitude to extend the length of time to obtain the required credit hours.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Could this change help the state police recruit more applicants?

EF/lg:yr