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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Sanchez, B DATE TYPED 1/27/05 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE High School Diplomas for Certain Veterans SB 198

ANALYST Chabot

### APPROPRIATION

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

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Veterans' Services Department (VSD)

Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 198 would allow school boards to issues high school diplomas to New Mexico Korean War veterans who were honorably discharged, scheduled to graduate from a New Mexico high school during the period June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955 but left school before graduation to serve in the military.

#### Significant Issues

A similar law for World War II veterans was enacted by the 2003 Legislature. Awarding a diploma is an inexpensive means of honoring veterans who would have graduated if they had not entered the military.

PED identifies the following benefits:

1. Korean conflict veterans will earn the prestige of having a high school diploma.
2. This bill would honor those who were forced to discontinue their high school education due to the Korean conflict.

3. This bill allows New Mexico to celebrate the life achievements and contributions of the veterans and/or their families as they are presented their high school diploma.
4. This bill demonstrates New Mexico's appreciation for the services veterans gave to their families and country.

Twenty-six states have enacted or are working on similar legislation.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no appropriation in this bill; administrative costs may result but these should be covered by the operating budgets of PED and local school districts.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

PED would have to develop rules and to carry out the provisions of the bill.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

As most Korean War veterans are in their 70s, any rules promulgated should be simple and documentation requirements be minimal such as a DD214 and a statement that the veteran was a resident of New Mexico and attending high school at the time of entry into the armed forces.

### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?**

Many veterans who served during the Korean War will not have high school diplomas.

GAC/yr