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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/22/07

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Expand Energy & Energy Conservation Learning SB SM 31

ANALYST Hanika Ortiz

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 31 encourages teachers to take advantage of the opportunities in New Mexico to expand students' awareness of energy and energy efficiency.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

PED comments that BP America Inc. is currently offering \$500,000 in grants for New Mexico teachers to develop programs about energy and energy conservation.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The memorial provides the following:

- New Mexico has abundant natural resources, including oil, gas, coal, sunlight and wind that make it the perfect energy laboratory.
- New Mexico is in the forefront of revolutionary thinking on energy, including innovative state programs that encourage development of renewable energy and innovative energy research at two national laboratories.

- Issues regarding the state's environment, natural resources, energy and energy technology must increasingly become part of the basic curriculum in New Mexico's schools so that children have the educational foundation they need for future employment.
- New Mexico students need to improve their mathematics and science performance, and studying energy and energy conservation issues may help them improve their performance.
- Teachers across New Mexico need and can use additional resources to implement new programs for students while also meeting their professional requirements.
- Equipping and educating teachers, who are responsible for inspiring young minds, is an essential part of academic success.
- Various grants, guest instructors and other programs give students and teachers a chance for additional exposure to subject matter that can help them make sense of the world around them.
- Strong public-private partnerships among companies, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions can help enrich the education programs of New Mexico's schools.
- Teachers who inspire learning in their students and capture the spirit of innovation by creating exciting and memorable experiences around the subject of energy and energy conservation enrich the lives of their students.

The memorial and the New Mexico State Senate resolve that New Mexico teachers be encouraged to take advantage of the myriad opportunities to expand the horizons of their students in the areas of energy and energy conservation.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

This memorial supports the PED's efforts to fully implement the standards and benchmarks in science. In the New Mexico Science Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards (2003), Standard II, Strand I (Physical Science) states: "Understand the structure and properties of matter, the characteristics of energy, and the interactions of matter and energy." There are Performance Standards at every grade level that address content related to sources of energy, energy transfer, transformation, transmission and conservation. Energy is a fundamental concept of science.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The Energy Conservation and Management Division (ECMD) notes that the memorial is consistent with several objectives of the EMNRD. ECMD currently has programs in place, such as Schools for Sol and several Clean Energy Grant projects which could provide the basis for including energy issues in curriculums in K-12 schools. EMNRD also currently operates an Energy Education Program using Oil and Gas Conservation Tax proceeds with similar objectives. This Memorial could serve as further direction for that effort.

New Mexico has significant resources of renewable energy, in the areas of wind and solar, and promoting knowledge of the technologies available, and burgeoning, to use those resources will not only prepare our youth to be receptive to their use, but also to be potential scientists, inventors, engineers, installers, and retailers of renewable energy products.

Similarly, energy efficiency can be illustrated through sustainable buildings built through the Governor's Green Building Executive Order and with the help of the proposed Sustainable Building Tax Credit. Education in this arena will reinforce an ethic of energy conservation and support technological advances for better design and building practices.

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

Teachers will not be encouraged by the Senate to take advantage of educational opportunities related to energy and energy conservation.

AHO/nt