

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

ORIGINAL DATE 3/17/09

SPONSOR Stewart LAST UPDATED _____ HM 103

SHORT TITLE Teaching License Gifted Education Endorsement SB _____

ANALYST Haug

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HJM 83, SM 81
Relates to HB 131

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

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

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 103 requests the PED to collaborate with state institutions of higher learning, gifted education organizations and the Legislative Education Study Committee to determine the requirements and competencies for a gifted education endorsement on teaching licenses. The PED would:

- take into consideration the existing coursework at the colleges of education at the state institutions of higher education that offer specialized gifted education programs for students;
- the study would consider endorsement competencies for gifted education teachers, such as those proposed in the Technical Assistance Manual for Gifted Education in New Mexico, and existing portfolio guidelines for gifted education, such as those developed by the New Mexico Association for the Gifted; and

- the study would also identify assessments currently available in gifted education that could be adopted within New Mexico as an appropriate gifted education examination that would demonstrate that gifted education-endorsed teachers are highly qualified, such as the "Education Testing Service PRAXIS II Gifted Exam".

Copies of the memorial would be transmitted to the PED, the Deans of the Colleges of Education at the state institutions of higher learning, the New Mexico Association for the Gifted and the Legislative Education Study Committee.

No timeframe is identified for the conclusion of the study.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The PED reports that the requirements of the memorial can be accomplished with existing Public PED staff.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Studies show that gifted students have unique needs that require accommodations and modifications at school.

It is important that public schools meet the needs of gifted students and help them to realize their potential and maintain their motivation to learn.

Research shows that in order to meet these needs, gifted education teachers must be specifically trained and highly qualified.

Highly qualified gifted education teachers are not only better prepared to meet the needs of gifted students but are a resource to general education teachers to assist in the differentiation of instruction to the benefit of all students.

In New Mexico, during the 2006-2007 school year, over thirteen thousand students were identified as gifted and were provided services by over seven hundred gifted education teachers, even though the state licensure system does not fully recognize the special requirements and talents of teachers of gifted students;

The PED states:

Currently, teachers are content specialists rather than specialists with training to meet the needs of the gifted. Also, under existing licensure rules, a teacher licensed at the level of the gifted student and in the appropriate content area is qualified to teach that student.

Further, some, but not all, colleges of education in New Mexico offer gifted programs to prepare gifted teachers. Gifted education graduate courses are available online at Eastern New Mexico University, New Mexico Highlands University—Farmington Branch and New Mexico State University. Face-to-face courses are available at Western New Mexico University and the University of New Mexico. There are 479 unduplicated teachers who taught gifted classes in 2007-2008 at the 120th reporting, according to STARS.

The Albuquerque Association for Gifted and Talented Students has requested the implementation of a gifted endorsement.

DUPLICATION, RELATIONSHIP

House Memorial 83 duplicates House Joint Memorial 83 and Senate Memorial 81 and is related to House Bill 131.

GH/mt