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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/28/13

SPONSOR Miera LAST UPDATED _____ HB 541

SHORT TITLE Teacher Language Proficiency & Council SB _____

ANALYST Roberts

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 541 amends the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act by adding the following two sections:

- 1) Establishing a statewide seal of bilingual proficiency as a capstone on a high school diploma or general equivalency degree for a student who meets the guidelines; and
- 2) Establishing a bilingual education advisory council (BEAC).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Additional unexpected costs may be incurred if school districts and charter schools do not have the necessary tools to verify a students' proficiency (understanding, speaking, reading, and writing) in two or more languages. The bill also does not address how BEAC members will be paid per diem and mileage if the PED is unable to absorb these costs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The IAD reports:

The State Bilingual Advisory Council (SBAC) was an active group of educators and advocates of bilingualism in the Sstate of New Mexico which was associated with the

Bilingual Multicultural Education Department (BMED) of the PED and was disbanded in the spring of 2011 by the Secretary-Designee of Education. Within the past month this advisory council has been reinstated with new membership and has yet to schedule their first meeting. It should also be noted this council is again only associated with the BMED and at no time was the SBAC ever in state statute.

Currently the PED's graduation and course requirement for a student graduating in the spring of 2013 is to have a total of 24 units with 1 unit being career cluster, workplace readiness, or a language other than English. There are no other provisions within the PED's graduation and course requirements for a student to show proficiency in that other language to demonstrate understanding, speaking, reading, and writing of that language.

The PED notes that the work of instituting a bi-literacy seal is important and should move forward with the recommendations of the newly-reinstated SBAC, though final decisions should not rest in any appointed advisory committee, but the BMED.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

These initiatives align with the PED's strategic lever 3: ready for success initiative by preparing the student to succeed throughout their academic careers. This would ultimately lead to college success and career readiness.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

The PED notes that the BEAC was appointed on February 8, 2013 and that this duplicates the current BEAC currently in place.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

A SBAC currently exists.

MIR/svb