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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/23/14
LAST UPDATED 01/27/14 **HB** 66

SPONSOR Stewart

SHORT TITLE School Graduation & Diploma Requirements **SB** _____

ANALYST Chavez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal (See Fiscal Implications)	Minimal (See Fiscal Implications)	Minimal (See Fiscal Implications)	Recurring	Public Education Department and District OpBuds

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Bill for the Legislative Education Study Committee

Relates to SB 5

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 66 makes changes to high school diplomas and graduation requirements, including a provision for a New Mexico general diploma to be awarded to high school students who meet certain graduation requirements, and distinguishing that diploma from the diploma of excellence, awarded to high school graduates who meet additional requirements. The bill clarifies or amends high school graduation requirements to receive a general diploma:

- (1) Permits a financial literacy course that meets state mathematics academic content and performance standards to qualify as one of the three required mathematics units.
- (2) Gives individual school districts the authority to determine physical education requirements.
- (3) Changes the requirement that at least one of the required units for graduation be earned as an advanced placement, honors, or dual-credit course to be required only for recipients of a diploma of excellence.

- (4) Removes the provision that gives students a certificate indicating credits earned and grade completed if a student leaves the school at the end of grade 12 without having met the assessments required for high school graduation. In its place the bill offers a New Mexico general diploma but not a diploma of excellence if a student demonstrates competence in designated subject areas, based on a standards-based assessment, or assessments required in Section 22-2C-4 NMSA 1978 *or a portfolio of standards-based indicators established by each school district.*
- (5) Any student who meets the requirements for either a general diploma or a diploma of excellence may be counted by the school *district* (previously “system”) as a high school graduate for the year in which all requirements are satisfied.

The bill also cleans up and clarifies legislation, including where dates included in statute are no longer relevant.

The bill declares an emergency.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation for this bill.

Implementation of HB 66 may contain associated planning and administrative expenses.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the Education Commission for the States (ECS), as of 2008, 21 states offered or planned to offer an honors or college prep diploma or endorsement.

Providing a general diploma, as distinguished from a diploma of excellence, would allow more students to leave the New Mexico public school system with a high-school diploma and obtain work that requires high school diplomas. However, some stakeholders have also expressed concern that creating a tiered system of high school diplomas would lead to lowering academic standards for New Mexico students.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This bill contains an emergency clause; if passed and signed by the governor, it would be applicable to the 2013-2014 school year.

RELATIONSHIP

SB 5 also makes changes to Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 by removing some requirements for districts and adding American Sign Language as an acceptable “language other than English”.

KC/ds:jl