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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Thomson ORIGINAL DATE 02/03/14
LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 17

SHORT TITLE Senior Citizens for Early Childhood Teaching SB _____

ANALYST Armstrong

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY14	FY15		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 90, SB 220

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 17 requests that the Legislative Education Study Committee, the Legislative Finance Committee, the Public Education Department, and CYFD study the feasibility of senior citizens assisting in preschool classrooms.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The feasibility of senior citizens assisting in preschool classrooms, which HJM 17 requests to study, is proven. Foster Grandparents is a federal Senior Corps program and, according to CYFD, has been an invaluable part of child care, preK, kindergarten, and Head Start programs for many years.

House Joint Memorial 17 – Page 2

Bringing preschool children and older adults together in early childhood settings to interact, engage, educate, support, and provide care for one another is often referred to in the early childhood field as “intergenerational care,” and is often considered a best practice. With appropriate support and training, senior adults can do much more than assist with custodial care and daily routines. They can be valuable curriculum makers and provide valuable contributions to the entire early childhood setting.

According to CYFD analysis, children can benefit from the senior adults participating in the program by learning about their community’s culture, traditions, and history. In some New Mexican communities, elders are some of the only community members that are able to speak the heritage language of the community. With training and encouragement from the staff, senior adults can be very effective in increasing the social-emotional support, sense of identity and cognitive stimulation available to children in the program.

RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 90 and Senate Bill 220 each appropriate \$240,758 to the Aging and Long-Term Services Department for three senior volunteer programs, including Foster Grandparents.

JA/svb