

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 and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website (www.nmlegis.gov) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ruiloba ORIGINAL DATE 2/11/17
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 258
SHORT TITLE Junior ROTC Instructor Licensure SB _____
ANALYST Fernandez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		See Fiscal Implications				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 258 enacts a new section of the School Personnel Act to allow PED to issue an alternative level I, II, or III-A license to a junior reserve officer training corps instructor with certain specifications.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill does not contain an appropriation. According to PED, associated costs are uncertain as it is not clear if the licensure levels indicated in the bill would have the same minimum salaries as Level I, II, and III.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED may issue an alternative level I license to a junior reserve officer training corps instructor who:

- Has instructed for at least one year;
- Meets the instructor's branch of service's minimum criteria for certification as a junior reserve officer training corps instructor; and
- Passed the New Mexico teacher assessment exam.

PED may issue an alternative level II license to a junior reserve officer training corps instructor who:

- Holds a level I license with successful annual evaluations; and
- Has at least three full school years of teaching experience at the high school level with a level I license.

PED may issue an alternative level III-A license to a junior reserve officer training corps instructor who:

- Holds an alternative level II license and the next higher level degree than the minimum required for the instructor's branch of service's certification;
- Has at least three full school years as a level II licensee.

According to PED, the provisions of HB258 “would require PED to assess instructors on a system for advancement that is not in line with the current standard for classroom teachers. Advancement through the system proposed in HB258 is based entirely off of experience and education, a system that has proved to be inadequate across the country”.

PED also indicates that HB258 would not require a content knowledge test prior to licensure for candidates that are teaching in a secondary setting. Without passage of the appropriate teacher assessments associated with other licensure levels, it is unlikely teachers with these licenses would meet “highly qualified” status from the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

PED also notes that the provisions of HB258 would result in the creation of a parallel licensure system specifically for junior reserve officer training corps instructors. “Some parts of this system are duplicative, unnecessarily more stringent or otherwise unnecessary. For example, HB258 creates more stringent criteria to obtain a Level I Alternative license for junior reserve officer training corps instructors than others receiving an alternative level I license. Also, HB258 provides for a teacher with a minimum of 24 hours in a secondary teacher preparation program approved by the department, while currently level I alternative licensure requires no coursework prior to receiving the license and 12-15 credits to convert into a full Level I license”.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED indicates that the requirements of this bill would result in the need for PED to create and monitor another parallel licensure system that the agency does not currently have sufficient resources to support.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

According to PED, it is unclear what would constitute an advanced degree for JROTC instructors. On page 2, line 23 the bill references “the next higher level degree than the minimum required for the instructor's branch of service's certifications. The current three-tiered system provides for advancement from level II to level III license after three years of teaching, an advanced degree (Master's) and proof of meeting competency. Because the level III alternative license is contingent upon teaching with a level II license and is already provided for in statute under the current system, it is recommended this section of HB258 be eliminated.