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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Schmedes/Sariñana/      **ORIGINA DATE** 2/2/19  
Dow/Powdrell-Culbert      **LAST UPDATED** \_\_\_\_\_      **HB** 277

**SHORT TITLE** Nursing Education Credit for Military Service      **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** Chenier

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$10.0		\$10.0	Recurring	Board of Nursing

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Board of Nursing (BON)

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

Higher Education Department (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 277 would amend the nursing practice act to require the board of nursing to establish rules requiring schools of nursing to provide nursing education credit for military medical education and experience through the use of challenge examinations or other methods of examination.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

BON said the cost to promulgate rules would not present a significant impact. The cost to hire a consultant to assist in writing the rules is projected to be \$10 thousand. An additional impact to the schools would be if this change had an impact on the New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium concepts based curriculum.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMSU said that this bill amends the Nursing Practice Act to allow students with military medical training and experience to challenge nursing courses by examination to earn nursing

credits. In a challenge by examination a student is required to pay the actual cost of the course. This bill does not take into account the cost the student will incur. If the student is using the GI Bill to pay for their education, the student will be responsible for covering the cost of the challenge by examination. The student will only be reimbursed by the GI Bill if the examination is done by a national testing organization.

BON said the nursing content for a student with military medical experience would have to be sufficient for the student to pass the national licensure examination.

HED said that most of New Mexico's higher education institutions currently have credit for prior learning policies that outline rules for awarding course credit for military training, standardized exams, challenge exams, industry certifications and licensures, and other types of experience. However, practices vary between campuses. One of the challenges of awarding credit for prior learning, which includes military training and experience, is that military training may not be equal to a full college course. Because of this, a student may have to take a college course that repeats his or her training or experience in order to complete the learning outcomes that are unique to the college course.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

HED said that higher education institutions, such as Texas A & M University – Corpus Christi and Texas Tech University – Health Science Center, have begun developing Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree programs geared toward military personnel and veterans who have prior medical experience and training in the military. These programs use prior learning assessment to identify which competencies have been mastered and develop a curriculum that focuses on concepts that a student were not mastered previously. These programs allow military veterans to move quickly through the BSN degree program with minimal duplication of their military training and experience.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

NMSU said this bill will have administrative implications for the faculty members who will be required to develop the challenge examinations.

EC/gb