

LFC Requester:	Jorgensen
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SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original Amendment
 Correction Substitute

Date Prepared: 02/06/23
 Bill No: [SB307](#)

Sponsor: Stewart
 Short Title: LICENSED TEACHER PREP AFFORDABILITY
 Agency Name and Code Number: PED - 924
 Person Writing: Gregory Frostad
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
\$5,000.00			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24	FY25		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	None	None	None	N/A	N/A	NFA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: N/A
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: N/A

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 307 (SB307) would amend the Teacher Preparation Affordability Act by

expanding eligibility for the Teacher Preparation Affordability Scholarship to:

- include licensed teachers working on post-baccalaureate degrees; and
- removing the requirement that an eligible student be enrolled at least half-time.

The bill also provides technical cleanup to existing law.

The bill would become effective July 1, 2023.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill does not contain an appropriation.

The Teacher Preparation Affordability Act was enacted in 2019 with an initial appropriation of \$10 million dollars. In each subsequent year, \$5 million was appropriated into the fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The purpose of the Teacher Preparation Affordability Act is to encourage eligible New Mexico students to attend and complete an accredited teacher preparation program, approved by the Public Education Department (PED), at a New Mexico public post-secondary educational institution or a tribal college by providing a scholarship. The scholarship is intended to help defray the educational expenses charged by the public postsecondary institution or tribal college, including tuition, fees, books, course supplies, and living expenses.

Current eligibility for the scholarship is:

- New Mexico resident or eligible for a nondiscrimination waiver.
- Enrolled at least half-time in a teacher prep program at an eligible institution and who is pursuing a teaching degree at any time later than 120 days following high school graduation or the award of a high school equivalency credential recognized by the State of New Mexico.
- Has not earned appropriate educational credentials to be licensed as a teacher by the public education department; and
- Has demonstrated financial need as determined by the institution.

Students apply directly to the teacher preparation program at their respective higher education institution, and institutions make awards based on financial need of the student. Awards cannot exceed \$6,000 per academic year. The scholarship continues if the recipient maintains satisfactory academic progress, but the recipient is not able to receive the scholarship for more than five (5) academic years.

In FY23, the Higher Education Department (HED) appropriation to the scholarship fund was \$5 million dollars. HED distributed nearly 1,080 student awards in FY22.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Teacher Preparation Affordability Scholarship is currently limited to students pursuing their first bachelor's degree in teacher education and bachelor's degree holders pursuing alternative licensure. By expanding scholarship eligibility to licensed teachers pursuing a post-bachelor's degree, this bill would help teachers go back to school and advance their careers, including paying for licensed teachers to pursue master's and doctoral degrees. elevate the teachers we have while continuing to build the pipeline of new teachers entering the classroom and improving outcomes for New Mexico students and helping solidify the state's teacher workforce. Attaining these degrees helps an individual advance their licensure level, but expanding this scholarship is a direct investment in the state's educational workforce and could help support strong New Mexico educators who may eventually want to serve in an administrative role.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

N/A

AMENDMENTS

N/A