

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: CS/SB 1a

52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016

Tracking Number: .203642.1

Short Title: First Aid & Electives For High School Grads

Sponsor(s): Senator Michael S. Sanchez

Analyst: Robin Shaya

Date: February 9, 2016

**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR SENATE BILL 1**

AMENDED

The House Floor amendment line inserts “courses” after “education” on page 10, line 16 and changes the title to reflect that change.

Original Bill Summary:

CS/SB 1 amends the *Public School Code* requiring the Public Education Department (PED) to incorporate lifesaving skills training, such as hands-on psychomotor skills cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED), and perform the Heimlich maneuver for choking victims into the health education curriculum for first through 12th grade students.

Fiscal Impact:

CS/SB 1 does not contain an appropriation.

At a Glance:

- Effective bystander CPR training provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can double or triple a victim’s chance of survival.
- CPR and AED training complement existing standards for health education in New Mexico.

Detailed Provisions:

The bill amends the *Public School Code* requiring PED to incorporate lifesaving skills training such as CPR training into all health education courses, which must:

- follow nationally recognized guidelines for CPR training;
- train students be to recognize the signs of a heart attack, how to use an AED, and perform the Heimlich maneuver for choking victims.

PED is required to promulgate rules that provide for:

- the use of the following persons as instructors:
 - school nurses, health teachers, and athletic department personnel; and
 - such other qualified persons, as determined by the school district in which training will take place, who volunteer to provide training at no cost to the district; and
- approval of training and instructional materials in both English and Spanish.

The bill also updates corresponding references to curricular requirements for health education appearing under provisions for high school graduation requirements.

Substantive Issues:

Section 22-13-1 NMSA 1978 requires health education instruction for first through 12th grade, and CS/SB 1 requires lifesaving skills be included in health education courses for all of these grade levels. Project Heart Start, part of the New Mexico Heart Institute, supports focus on this age group by stating “middle school age children are typically strong enough to start CPR training in the seventh grade and have shown great interest.” However, it is unclear whether the proposed changes would be age-appropriate for first through sixth grade students.

Additional courses offered in CPR and AED training could complement existing, required standards for health education in New Mexico. Current regulations require seventh and eighth grade students to describe situations requiring professional health services and students in grades 9 through 12 to be able to analyze situations requiring professional health services. According to PED, CPR training would reinforce these benchmarks because an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest would require professional health services, and a large part of the CPR process is ensuring that emergency responders are contacted.

The American Heart Association (AHA) recommends that hands-on training in CPR be a requirement for graduation from high school. Currently, AHA reports, 26 states require CPR training as a high school graduation requirement, and CS/SB 1 would add New Mexico to that list.

If New Mexico students are required to be trained in CPR and the use of AEDs, as CS/SB 1 intends, it is likely that the number of able-bodied responders in the event of cardiac arrest would be increased in New Mexico. AHA states that almost 326,000 cardiac arrest events occur outside of the hospital each year. According to AHA, “effective bystander CPR provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can double or triple a victim’s chance of survival.”

The Mayo Clinic describes CPR as “a lifesaving technique useful in many emergencies” and notes “CPR can keep oxygenated blood flowing to the brain and other vital organs until more definitive medical treatment can restore a normal heart rhythm.” The National Institutes of Health (NIH) describes an AED as “a portable device that checks the heart rhythm and can send an electric shock to the heart to try to restore a normal rhythm,” noting AEDs are used to treat sudden cardiac arrest.

Technical Issues:

Section 22-13-1 NMSA 1978 requires health education instruction for first through 12th grade and CS/SB 1 requires lifesaving skills be included in health education courses for all of these grade levels. The sponsor may wish to consider an amendment clarifying specific grade levels for which proposed training is targeted or that the training be age appropriate.

Related Bills:

HB 49 *School CPR & Defibrillator Instruction*

CS/HB 104a *First Aid & Electives for High School Grads* (Identical)

SB 38 *School CPR & Defibrillator Instruction*