

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SM 24a

52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016

Tracking Number: .202929.1

Short Title: Student Risk and Resiliency Assessment Project

Sponsor(s): Senator Michael Padilla

Analyst: Christina McCorquodale

Date: February 11, 2016

AS AMENDED

Senate Rules Committee amendment adds the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee as an agency that the Department of Health will report its findings and recommendations to.

Original Bill Summary:

SM 24 requests the Department of Health (DOH) to determine the feasibility of implementation of the risk and resiliency assessment project for students statewide. The study will include data concerning students' behaviors that present health risks like alcohol and drug abuse, tobacco use, sexual activity, and thoughts of suicide. The bill request DOH to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Education Study Committee by November 1, 2016.

Fiscal Impact:

SM 24 does not include an appropriation.

Substantive Issues:

Every two years, public high school and middle school students in New Mexico provide information about their health behaviors by participating in the New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency survey. The survey gathers pertinent information about students' behaviors that present health risks like alcohol and drug use, tobacco use, sexual activity, and suicide. The survey also gathers other health-related information such as body image and asthma. New Mexico is one of the few states that also collects information about resiliency factors such as relationships with family, peers, school, and community. The Public Education Department (PED) and DOH conduct the survey statewide with participation from nearly every school district and reaches 30,000 students.

The Risk and Resiliency assessment project for students was developed collaboratively with Albuquerque high school students over a two-year period from 2012 through 2013. The project included input from youth on how to understand and make use of public health data from the New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency survey. Students and adults who participated in the project gained a deeper understanding of adolescent health issues in their schools and communities. Students also learned how to analyze data, gain leadership skills, and become

experienced facilitators. Students also connected with school and community groups to form partnerships. Adult perceptions of youth in their communities improved with participation in the risk and resiliency assessment project.