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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
53rd Legislature, 1st Session, 2017

Bill Number	<u>HB270/HSIVCS</u>	Sponsor	<u>HSIVC</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.206718.2</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HSIVC/HEC</u>
Short Title	<u>Home School Student Activity Participation</u>		
Analyst	<u>Bedeaux</u>	Original Date	<u>2/27/17</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

The House State Government, Indian & Veterans Affairs Committee Substitute for House Bill 270 (HB270/HSIVCS) would allow the parent, guardian, or other person with custody of a school-age person to organize a team of home school students to participate in academic activities. The team would designate a home school administrator who would be responsible for all matters related to the activities of the team. The home school administrator must be qualified to provide instruction in the activity under the School Personnel Act.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill contains no appropriation. HB270/HSIVCS does not include a mechanism for providing state funding to parents or administrators of home school students for the reimbursement of activity participation and transportation.

Currently, the funding formula provides program units specifically for the purpose of supporting home school student participation in school district activities. The funding provided is equal to the number of students participating in activities at a school district multiplied by a cost differential of 0.1. In the 2016-2017 school year, 99 home school students were funded for participation in activities in school districts, for a statewide total cost of \$39 thousand. Approximately \$11 thousand of the \$39 thousand (27 percent) went to Albuquerque Public Schools (APS). This funding to school districts would be decreased slightly if fewer home school students participate in activities in school districts.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HB270/HSIVCS draws a distinction between academic activities and athletics. Academic activities regulated by the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA) include Business Professionals of America, Chess, DECA Marketing Education, Future Farmers of America, JROTC, Mock Trial, Science Olympiad, and Speech and Debate. The bill would not allow home school students to organize athletic teams.

HB270/HSIVCS would not prevent students from participating in activities at public schools in their home district. Current statute and NMAA rules allow home school students to participate in activities at public schools in the district where they reside. These students must have their GPA verified by the school's athletic director, and must present documentation that their classes equate to more than half of that school's regular class schedule. Analysis on HB270/HSIVCS by NMAA indicates that current student participation would not be impacted by the bill.

HB270/HSIVCS would allow a group of home school students to organize their own team for academic activities, rather than join a public school team. Forty-day enrollment from the 2016-2017 school year lists 484 students either homebound or home schooled statewide, 345 of whom reside within the boundaries of APS. Of the statewide 484 students, only 99 were funded for participation in student activities. It is unclear how many students would take advantage of this new rule.

Home school administrators, as defined by HB270/HSIVCS, would be required to complete background checks under the School Personnel Act. The Public Education Department (PED) explained that instructors for any NMAA-based activity, athletic or academic, are required to attain licensure as athletic coaches. The criteria for athletic coach licensure are a high school diploma (or equivalency), successful completion of NMAA coaches' training program, and successful completion of NMAA first aid training program.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMAA would be required to promulgate rules regarding the "separate membership" of home school teams. NMAA would also be able to provide rules for the consolidation of home school teams when appropriate.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMAA analysis of HB270/HSIVCS notes that the bill may affect the balance of competition. Because home school students may have specialized curricula, they may be able to better prepare for a competition than some other students. For instance, a group of home school students with a specialized science curriculum may be better prepared for a Science Olympiad competition than a traditional public school team. The same may also be said of specialized charter schools like the Albuquerque Institute of Mathematics and Science, which are currently allowed to participate but are not considered to create a competitive imbalance.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- NMAA

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