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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 3/06/19  
 LAST UPDATED 3/13/19      HB 400/HAFCS/aSEC

SPONSOR HAFC

SHORT TITLE School Media Literacy Advisory Committee      SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Liu/Woods

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

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$4.5 - \$36.0	\$4.5 - \$36.0	\$9.0 - \$72.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 194

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)  
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of SEC Amendment

The Senate Education Committee amendment to House Bill 400 replaces the sunset date for the media literacy advisory committee (MLAC) with a delayed repeal of all sections on December 1, 2020. The amendment further requires members of MLAC to be culturally, geographically, and politically diverse. Additionally, the amendment places the responsibility of reviewing K-12 standards, reviewing rules and policies, developing recommendations for professional development, developing a survey for educators, and making recommendations regarding media literacy to MLAC rather than PED. The amendment maintains the original bill's requirements that PED consult with MLAC and provide the progress report and final report.

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bill 400 establishes a media literacy advisory committee (MLAC) to conduct a statewide survey with a subsequent report on media literacy practices in public schools. The bill includes a temporary provision, authorizing the committee to function from July 1, 2019, through September 1, 2020, and advise

PED on updating and standardizing media literacy programs across the state.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill does not make an appropriation but entitles the 15 members of MLAC to per diem and mileage pursuant to Section 10-8-4 NMSA 1978. Additionally, the bill requires MLAC members to meet at least four times before September 1, 2020, and tasks PED with providing staff support. Per diem and mileage costs can range between \$500 and \$1,200 per member, depending on distances traveled and meeting times. As such, the estimated additional operating impact to PED's budget to cover the cost of 15 members at four meetings could be up to \$72 thousand. Costs would vary depending on the number of appointed members. Additional meetings would change the estimated cost assumed in the analysis. If MLAC's sunset date is extended beyond September 1, 2020, costs to continue operations would effectively be a recurring expense to the general fund.

The HAFCS Substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 includes a \$2 million increase for PED operations, which could be used to provide additional staffing support for MLAC.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The bill defines media literacy as the means and ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create and communicate with media and digital products. The bill specifies the creation of a special committee to consider issues relating to media literacy. The 15-member committee shall be drawn from a specific list of potential stakeholders, including a variety of education and social services professionals and community stakeholder groups.

PED believes the ongoing work by the department in developing and providing professional development for implementing the new computer science standards might meet the underlying objectives of the bill without the need to create a consulting body, survey, and report. PED notes while computer science is not exactly the same as media literacy, many of the computer science standards adopted in July 2018 (NMAC 6.29.17) include material about digital media literacy. New Mexico computer science standards are published by the Computer Science Teachers Association (CTSA). CTSA standards were written by educators and provide a coherent framework for teachers and administrators. The standards include key concepts of computing systems, networks and the Internet, data and analysis, algorithms and programming, and impacts of computing. The standards also include a progression across grade levels. These standards infuse computer science literacy throughout the curricula and clarify how literacy benefits all students.

According to the Center for Media Literacy, programs that increase student's media literacy have many potential benefits. Training can help students be good consumers of information, provide additional approaches for integrating material across content areas, and provide tools for critical thinking and successful communication.

According to Media Literacy Now, media-literate students appear to demonstrate improvements in overall literacy, health, critical thinking, and academic engagement. Additionally, students are more likely to make informed decisions to be respectful, safeguard private information, and develop new skills for operating technology.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

PED notes the bill directs the department to develop a plan for increasing access to professional development. It does not address any assessment of existing training, nor does it address any outcome assessments. PED states increasing access to professional development for teachers and librarians will require the department to develop a clear plan for expected outcomes to measure impact of media literacy trainings. PED notes offering professional development without a clear plan for expected changes in student outcomes may limit the efficacy of the plan because developers and content experts are not clear on the expected impact for students.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

This bill establishes a consulting committee that would provide oversight of PED work, with voting rights established, but without an explanation of specifically what the committee would approve. Provisions of the bill appear to only provide the committee with advisory functions.

According to this bill, PED is required to:

- Review and update K-12 standards for educational technology,
- Review rules and policies pertaining to media literacy,
- Encourage each school district to review policies annually,
- Develop guidelines for professional development of teachers and librarians,
- Review professional development to ensure it aligns to standards and benchmarks,
- Approve professional development,
- Develop a survey in consultation with MLAC,
- Survey educators to determine how literacy education is integrated in curricula,
- Develop an action plan to increase access to literacy education across all grades and content areas, and
- Report progress with MLAC to the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) by September 1, 2020, and a final report to the governor and LESC by November 1, 2020.

## **RELATIONSHIP**

This bill relates to Senate Bill 194, which appropriates \$400 thousand for the development of media literacy guidelines and creates a pilot program for the professional development of teachers in media literacy.

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Media literacy professional development will continue to be administered and accessed at the local level. Existing standards for computer science will remain intact, and local policy will determine how professional development supports those standards.

SL/gb/sb