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**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**BILL ANALYSIS**  
**54th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2020**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>SB48</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Rodriguez/O'Neill</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.216103.1</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>SEC/SFC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>Public School Dance Prog for At-Risk Youth</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Waite</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>1/27/2020</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u>2/6/2020</u>

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**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 48 (SB48) makes an appropriation to the Department of Health (DOH) for a dance program to be provided in public schools for low-income, at-risk youth.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill appropriates \$800 thousand from the general fund to DOH for expenditure in FY21. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 (HB2/HAFCS) does not include an appropriation to DOH for a statewide school-based dance program. However, HB2/HAFCS includes an increase of \$6 million in the state equalization guarantee distribution to fund additional elementary school physical education program units.

**SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

During the 2019 legislative session, the Legislature appropriated a total of \$420 thousand for low-income and at-risk youth dance programs across the state. Laws 2019, Chapter 279 (House Bill 548) appropriated \$50 thousand to DOH for a program in Bernalillo, \$50 thousand for a program in Roswell, \$50 thousand for a program with Hobbs Schools, and \$220 thousand for a statewide program. Laws 2019, Chapter 278 (Senate Bill 536) appropriated \$100 thousand to DOH to provide low-income, at-risk children statewide with access to a best-practice, character-building youth dance program.

DOH is currently supporting organizations to provide youth dance and physical activity programs in public elementary, middle, and high school for non-recurring and recurring contracts within FY20 through FY24. According to the scope of work outlined by DOH in its request for proposals, the programs are required to target increasing physical activity, improve nutrition among children and adolescents in schools with at least 50 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-fee

meals, and be designed to reach Native American, Hispanic, and African American students. Grantees are required to conduct a quantitative and qualitative evaluation assessing program efficacy, behavior change, and health outcomes.

The DOH analysis reports that SB48 is aligned with the department's strategic plan and supports the goal of improved health status for New Mexicans. DOH is particularly supportive of the role that school-based physical education programs, such as dance, can play in curbing obesity and improving fitness among adolescents from low-income communities.

In its 2013 seminal review of research, the National Dance Education Organization found incorporating dance into a curriculum can improve student test scores, lower dropout rates, improve learning in core subject areas, foster teacher and student morale, and support learning for disadvantaged students.

### **RELATED BILLS**

Nearly duplicates HB95, Public School Dance Program for At-Risk Youth, which requires the dance program to be statewide.

### **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files
- New Mexico Department of Health (DOH)

**JLW/tb/mc/sgs**