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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Sanchez, B DATE TYPED 2/7/05 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Uniform Curriculum by Grade and Subject SB 264

ANALYST Chabot

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
			See Narrative		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 69, SB 138 and SB 146  
 Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

#### SUMMARY

##### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 264 amends the general duties of the Public Education Department (Section 22-2-2 NMSA 1978) to require PED to institute “uniform public school curricula by grade and subject for all public schools.” Editorial changes are made to amend the section to include the new requirement.

##### Significant Issues

Current statutes require PED to prescribe courses of instruction taught in public schools. This bill would requirement a uniform curriculum for all grades and courses taught. Uniformity should allow students to change schools and districts without needing to adjust to curriculum differences.

A standardized curriculum may result in less innovation by school districts in developing teaching methods and adapting them to the needs of the students.

SB264 requires that PED assess “to develop, write and implement the uniform statewide school curricula and to provide the professional development necessary to successfully institute the curricula would be an expensive task. There are nine subject areas content standards and eight grades for which the uniform statewide curricula would need to be written.”

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Being able to transfer from schools and districts without loss of continuity should result in better student outcomes. PED states rigorous academic curricula can improve core performance measures and achievement of benchmarks.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill has no appropriation; however, PED estimates \$491 thousand would be needed to develop the uniform public school curricula by grade and subject. LFC assess this should be accomplished by existing PED staff within the operating budget.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

PED will have to develop uniform curriculum for all school districts. It will have to mandate course requirements, textbooks, and instruction methods.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

PED suggests page 6, line 23 through page 7, line 11 be changed to reflect the current new Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards in the following areas: Language Arts; Mathematics; Modern, Classical and Native languages; Science; Arts; Social Studies; Physical Education; Career Readiness; and health Education. However, no specific changes were provided.

It further suggests the standard curriculum be voluntary.

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

The existing Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards will be used by districts to develop curriculum.

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. What are the major benefits envisioned by this legislation?
2. How will innovation in teaching methods and choice of textbooks be impacted by a standardized statewide curriculum?
3. Do local school boards support this legislation?

GAC/yr