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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Sanchez, M. ORIGINAL DATE 2/20/2007
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE Valencia School Suspension Alternatives SB 825
ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB-608

Relates to appropriations contained in the General Appropriations Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 825 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department for the purpose of implementing a pilot program in Valencia County that will provide an alternative to out-of-school suspensions.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

The LFC remains concerned with funding initiatives outside of the funding formula as it tends to disqualify school funding and diverts funding away from core educational needs.

House Bill 2 contains \$1 million for dropout and truancy prevention programs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED notes that Truancy is identified as one of the early warning signs for students headed for potential delinquent activity, social isolation or educational failure via suspension, expulsion or dropping out. It is considered one of the top 10 problems facing schools. Eighty percent of dropouts were chronically truant before dropping out and 90% of youths in detention for delinquent acts were chronically truant.

The program will benefit students by helping them to achieve an appropriate level of academic performance. The program will also work on identifying high risk behaviors to which this age group is susceptible and provide resistance education.

By completing an Alternative to Suspension Program students should be able to:

- Reduce out-of-school suspension time
- Have a professional evaluation/assessment
- Explore alternatives to suspension-worthy behavior
- Participate in a skill-building workshop.

Parents should be able to:

- Identify risk-taking behaviors
- Learn relevant/current information about alcohol and other substances
- Learn to manage and provide appropriate consequences for non pro-social behavior
- Receive support from other parents.

PA/mt