

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SJM 24

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .190775.1

Short Title: Examine High School Health Curriculum

Sponsor(s): Senator Linda M. Lopez

Analyst: Travis Dulany

Date: March 5, 2013

Bill Summary:

SJM 24 requests the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC), in conjunction with the Public Education Department (PED) and the Department of Health (DOH), to appoint a work group of stakeholders to study the current New Mexico high school health curriculum for its effectiveness, and report the results of the study and any recommendations to the LESC, the Governor, PED, and DOH before the beginning of the 2014 legislative session.

Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not contain appropriations.

Memorials requesting the formation of work groups are likely to have a fiscal impact in terms of staff time, travel, office supplies, and other items.

Substantive Issues:

According to the PED bill analysis, the department requires that locally-developed curricula must align with the adopted PED Health Education Content Standards with Benchmarks and Performance Standards.

According to the DOH bill analysis:

- PED health education standards are based on eight National Health Education Standards that were developed to establish, promote, and support health-enhancing behaviors for students in all grade levels;
- the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in partnership with health education experts representing education stakeholders, developed a Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool (HECAT), which contains guidance, appraisal tools, and resources to conduct an examination of health education curricula;
- HECAT can be used to help schools select or develop appropriate and effective health education curricula;
- HECAT is aligned with national education standards and is based on the Characteristics of Effective Health Education Curricula; and
- HECAT includes all the needed guidance and appraisal tools for carrying out a thorough assessment of a health education curriculum.

Current Law

Provisions in current law state that:

- for students entering the eighth grade in the school year 2012-2013, a course in health education is required prior to graduation;
- the health education course may be required in either middle school or high school, as determined by the school district; and
- each school district submit to PED a health education implementation plan for school year 2012-2013 and subsequent school years, including in which grade health education is required and how the course aligns with PED content and performance standards.

Regarding these provisions, PED notes that:

- only one year of data will be available at the end of school year 2012-2013 from the small number of schools implementing these provisions in grade 8; and
- for schools not implementing this requirement in school year 2012-2013, complete data will not be available until after school year 2013-2014.

Content Standards

PED has published seven content standards for all grades on the department's website. The standards require that students be able to:

1. comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention;
2. demonstrate the ability to access valid health information and health-promoting products and services;
3. demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and reduce health risks;
4. analyze the influence of culture, media, technology, and other factors on health;
5. demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health;
6. demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting and decision-making skills to enhance health; and
7. demonstrate the ability to advocate for personal, family, peer, and community health.

Committee Referrals:

SRC/SEC

Related Bills:

*SB 433 *Public School Physical Education & Funding*
HB 54 *School Board Cyberbullying Prevention*