

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SM 59

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .192796.1

Short Title: Tolerance Curriculum in Schools

Sponsor(s): Senator Linda M. Lopez and Others

Analyst: James Ball

Date: March 4, 2013

Bill Summary:

SM 59 requests that the Public Education Department (PED):

- provide suggestions for interweaving a tolerance and diversity curriculum into existing K-12 content standards;
- prepare and disseminate to all school districts a guide for including tolerance and diversity teaching;
- include in its rules an expanded emphasis on tolerance and diversity as part of the standard curriculum;
- consider requiring cultural diversity and sensitivity education for new teachers and as part of continuing education for all teachers;
- convene a work group to make recommendations for form and content of courses to satisfy the requirement; and
- present its recommendations to the Legislative Education Study Committee in the 2013 interim.

Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

Substantive Issues:

Since the education reform initiatives of 1986, teachers no longer are required to take continuing education coursework. Their ongoing improvement as teachers is addressed in the PED professional development framework rule.

In addition, PED licensure rules do not specify courses of study for new teachers. Rather the rules provide detailed competencies that new teachers are expected to possess when they exit teacher preparation programs. The colleges and universities address the competencies through courses they design. Most, although not all, PED licensure rules include competencies regarding diversity and tolerance.

Committee Referrals:

SRC/SEC

Related Bills:

None as of 3/4/2013.