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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
53rd Legislature, 1st Session, 2017

Bill Number	<u>HM49</u>	Sponsor	<u>Maestas</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.206108.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HEC</u>
Short Title	<u>Media Literacy Best Practices</u>		
Analyst	<u>Terrazas</u>	Original Date	<u>2/17/17</u>
		Last Updated	<u>3/1/17</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 49 (HM49) requests the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) or another appropriate interim committee to hold a hearing on media literacy and best practices. HM49 also requests the Public Education Department (PED) and local school districts to develop best practices and to offer media literacy.

HM49 defines media literacy as “the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, develop, produce and interpret media, and it encompasses the foundational skills that lead to digital citizenship.” Digital citizenship “requires a diverse set of skills related to current technology and social media use and includes the norms of appropriate, responsible and healthy behavior.”

FISCAL IMPACT

Memorials do not contain appropriations.

According to PED, the costs associated with the design and development of media literacy and digital citizenship would be incurred by PED staff. Costs would include hosting the required coursework on a learning management system, which currently is not funded by the Legislature through IDEAL-NM.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Media literacy is not a required course at any grade level, but schools can offer it as an elective from sixth grade to 12th grade.

HM49 draws attention to the abundance of information young people have access to through media and technology and the importance of knowing how to navigate that information in a safe, ethical, responsible, and effective manner. The bill indicates schools can play a critical role in providing best practices for media and technology use. HM49 identifies PED and local school

districts as key stakeholders for identifying best practices and making recommendations for instruction in media literacy, digital citizenship, and internet safety.

In November 2016, the Stanford History Education Group released a study on civic online reasoning, defined by the group as “the ability to judge the credibility of information that floods young people’s smartphones, tablets, and computers.” The Stanford researchers administered 56 tasks to middle school, high school, and college students across 12 states and collected and analyzed 7,804 responses. They found student responses were consistently “dismaying.” Students, for example, had a hard time distinguishing between advertisements from news articles or identifying the origin of information. Education professor Sam Wineburg, one of the study’s researchers, stated the Common Core’s push for evidence-based reasoning falls flat if students believe everything they search online.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

LESC or another appropriate interim committee would hold a hearing during the interim to discuss safe media and technology use, with the goal of establishing media literacy and digital literacy as part of the state’s education goals and essential academic learning requirements.

PED and school districts would need to ensure media literacy instruction is offered to students. They would also need to develop media literacy best practices.

ALTERNATIVES

One alternative is to embed media literacy skills into students’ present curriculum and assignments.

RELATED BILLS

Relates to HB303, Life Skills as Graduation Requirement, which proposes to include media literacy as part of the required one-unit life skills course.

Relates to HB498, Allow Early High School Graduation, which allows high school students to graduate early from high school by meeting certain requirements.

Relates to SB31, Remove Certain Graduation Requirements, which eliminates the high school graduation requirement for students to take an advanced placement, honors, dual credit, or distance learning course.

Relates to SB134/SECS, Computer Science for School Graduation, which allows students substitute a computer science unit for either a mathematics or science unit, provided that competence in the subject being substituted is demonstrated.

Relates to CS/SB219/aSEC, Define & Require School Ethnic Studies, which requires ethnic studies to be offered as an elective for grades 9 through 12.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESG Files

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