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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Roch **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/24/17
LAST UPDATED 3/08/17 **HB** 453/aHEC/aSEC

SHORT TITLE Eliminate Some School Reporting Requirements **SB** _____

ANALYST Fernandez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		See Fiscal Implications				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB279

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 Public Education Department (HB279)

No Response Received From
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SEC Amendment

The Senate Education Committee amendment to House Bill 453 inserts a new Subsection D in Section 22-13-1.7. NMSA 1978, as follows: “An elementary physical education program that receives state financial support”. The amendment further reinstates language in Subsection D that would require an elementary physical education program that receives state financial support to (1) provide for the physical education needs of students defined in this section and (2) use teachers with a license endorsement for physical education.

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee amendment to House Bill 453 would now require the school district’s or charter school’s accountability report to be published in both the local newspaper as well as on the website of the school district or charter school. The amendment eliminates the requirement for the accountability report to be posted on the PED website.

The fiscal impact of the amendment would no longer result in a potential cost savings at the local school district or charter school since they would continue to publish the report in the newspaper and on the website.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 453 amends various sections of the Public School Code to remove the following reporting requirements for school districts and state-chartered schools: 1) the requirement that survey results of parental views on the quality of schools be included in the annual accountability report; 2) the requirement that the annual accountability report be published in a local newspaper and replaces it with a requirement that the accountability report be published on-line on the PED website as well as the website of the school district or state-chartered school; 3) the requirement that public schools submit their elementary physical education program plans to PED; 4) the requirement for public schools to annually evaluate and report to PED the results of Even Start Family Literacy programs, including number of children and families served, services provided and gains achieved by children and their families; 5) the requirement that PED notify the public school if it is not meeting benchmarks and performance standards for Even Start Family Literacy programs and that funding may cease; and 6) the requirement that results of the Even Start Family Literacy Program be reported annually to the Legislative Education Study Committee.

House Bill 453 repeals Section 22-10A-33 NMSA 1978 which requires an administrator, teacher or other school employee who observes or has direct knowledge from a participant or victim of an act of violence upon a school administrator, teacher or other school employee to file an incident report describing the incident pursuant to procedures established by PED and repeals related reporting requirements to the local school board, to PED and other legislative committees.

HB453 repeals Section 22-15-12 NMSA 1978, which requires each local school board of a school district and each governing authority of a state institution or private school acquiring instructional material pursuant to the Instructional Material Law to file a report with PED on materials purchased, cost of materials, average per-student cost, and the year-end cash balance.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

In an analysis for HB279, PED indicates the current requirement for local school districts and charter schools to publish the annual accountability reports in local newspapers incur costs that can range from \$7.9-\$43 thousand for a small district (5 page report) to \$31.5 - \$173.6 thousand for a large school district (20 page report). The range is based on the cost to advertise in the Santa Fe New Mexican which charges \$22.50/column inch and the Albuquerque Journal which charges \$124/column inch.

The removal of several reporting requirements proposed in this bill could result in a cost savings to local school districts and charter schools. The exact amount cannot be determined. Also, additional costs might be incurred to publish additional information on the respective websites. Any savings could be reprioritized by the local school district or state-charter school for other purposes.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to PED, changing the requirement to publish annual accountability reports from newspaper to websites has the following advantages:

- Public readership could be increased. PED cites a study by Pew Research which indicates that as much as twice as many people refer to read their news from electronic

media compared to print media.

- Printing costs are expensive compared to costs to post on websites.
- It is possible that posting on websites would give local school districts and charter schools with more flexibility to provide additional information and thus increasing public transparency.

RELATIONSHIP

Relates to HB279 which amends the Public School Code to remove the current requirement that school districts or state-chartered schools publish annual accountability reports in a local newspaper and would require schools and state-chartered schools to publish annual accountability reports on the websites of PED, the school district or charter school.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HB453 does not provide an alternative mechanism for interested parties or the general public to access the school accountability reports in the event they do not have access to a computer or the internet.

CF/jle/al