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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/06/09

SPONSOR Miera LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 31

SHORT TITLE Study Effects of Bullying SB _____

ANALYST Peery-Galon

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

| | FY09 | FY10 | FY11 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Non-Rec | Fund Affected |
|--------------|------|---------|------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Total | | Minimal | | Minimal | Nonrecurring | General Fund |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

No Response Received From

Department of Health

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 31 requests that the Children, Youth and Families Department, Public Education Department, and Department of Health conduct a joint study to determine the current status of bullying prevention efforts in the state; to research evidence-based strategies to prevent bullying; to collect, analyze and report data related to the impact of bullying on juvenile justice, education and health; and to make recommendations on the best approach to ensuring effective bullying prevention programs statewide. The agencies are to report their findings to an appropriate interim legislative committee and to the Legislative Education Study Committee by November 30, 2009.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

PED stated it would take approximately 80 hours of time for an education administrator to serve on the study group, report progress to the department's cabinet secretary, and assist in the development and presentation of the study. The department estimates the total cost to be \$2,600.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED reported a recent nationally representative study of more than 15,000 6th-10th graders in the United States found that:

- Nearly 20 percent admitted to bullying others “sometimes” or more often within a school semester, and 9 percent bullied others once a week or more often;
- 17 percent said that they had been bullied “sometimes” or more often, and were bullied at least once per week.
- 6 percent of the total sample said that they bullied *and* had been bullied “sometimes” or more often.

PED noted that Stop Bullying NOW is a free U.S. Department of Education-endorsed program through the Health and Human Services Department.

PED reported that violence and vandalism in New Mexico public schools has consistently gone down from 1999 to 2005, from 17,411 to 11,316 total incidents. (New Mexico Public Education Department, University of New Mexico, 2005)

CYFD reported, that in 2005, PED was awarded \$155,000 for bullying prevention programs. Eleven school districts were funded amounts ranging from \$3,000 to \$60,000. On the 2007 Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey, 9 percent of responding New Mexico high school students reported skipping school within the past 30 days due to safety concerns. For 2009, the survey will be expanded to better identify and clarify data specific to school bullying.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

PED stated while this memorial does not have any specific performance implications for the department, results from a study on the nature and effects of bullying and other forms of harassment may allow for a safe learning environment and ultimately have a positive impact on academic success and help in closing the achievement gap.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED noted it anticipates the department can accomplish the study with existing staff.

CYFD reported it would absorb the administrative impact associated with participating in the memorial with existing resources.

RPG/svb