

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 273

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .196218.1

Short Title: Arts Education

Sponsor(s): Senator John M. Sapien

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 15, 2014

Bill Summary:

SB 273 makes an appropriation for an arts education program that integrates literacy and theater for middle and high school students who attend public schools in Bernalillo, Sandoval, and Valencia counties.

Fiscal Impact:

\$13,400 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Cultural Affairs Department (CAD) for expenditure in FY 15. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Substantive Issues:

No information has been provided by CAD or the public schools in Bernalillo, Sandoval, and Valencia counties on where and how the program in SB 273 might be implemented or what its specific goals might be.

Background:

According to websites related to the integration of literacy with theater, research has shown that students who participate in classroom drama activities increase:

- vocabulary;
- verbal and non-verbal communication;
- reading comprehension;
- active listening;
- improved socialization;
- motor skills;
- focus;
- empathetic connection with characters; and
- affective learning.

A typical activity for the integration of theater with literacy development might be what is known as Readers Theatre, in which students take a story, perhaps from a history lesson, and rewrite it in the form of a script to be acted out. Such activities reinforce writing skills and bring historical studies alive.

Committee Referrals:

SCC/SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

SB 250a *Incorporate Arts into Classroom Instruction*