

at the state or local level and would require PED to create and approve content and performance standards in the new subject area of ethnic studies.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This bill amends Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 pertaining to graduation requirements, to require that courses in ethnic studies be offered as part of the seven and one-half elective requirement for a New Mexico diploma of excellence for students entering the 9th grade.

In an analysis for a similar bill, PED noted that the Public School Code currently does not prohibit or prevent schools or school districts from offering ethnic studies instruction for credit as an elective.

Ethnic studies are defined as “the interdisciplinary study of multiple perspectives through the examination of social, ethnic, cultural, gender and historical experiences to build critical thinking skills.” According to PED the definition of ethnic studies seems duplicative with New Mexico Social Studies Standards.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED, school districts and charter schools may incur costs associated with implementation of this new requirement.

CTF/sb