

LESC bill analyses are available on the New Mexico Legislature website (www.nmlegis.gov). Bill analyses are prepared by LESC staff for standing education committees of the New Mexico Legislature. LESC does not assume any responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
54th Legislature, 1st Session, 2019

Bill Number	<u>SB412</u>	Sponsor	<u>Rodriguez</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.213013.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SEC/SFC</u>
Short Title	<u>Circus Arts Education</u>		
Analyst	<u>Bedeaux</u>	Original Date	<u>2/6/19</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 412 (SB412) appropriates \$100 thousand to support circus arts education in New Mexico public schools, including trapeze, aerial fabrics, unicycling, juggling, clowning, stilt-walking, giant puppetry, and partner acrobatics.

FISCAL IMPACT

SB412 would appropriate \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY20. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Department of Cultural Affairs explains circus arts are a traditional art form that can offer students a creative outlet, build confidence, and provide an opportunity to learn challenging new skills. Additionally, many of the acts identified in the appropriation, like trapeze, aerial fabric, and acrobatics, involve physical activity, resulting in fitness benefits for students.

SB412 is intended to support circus arts education in New Mexico public schools. PED does not currently receive funds for this purpose and would be required to establish how the funds would be prioritized and spent. The appropriation is likely too small to support circus arts programs statewide, which will likely prompt the department to publish a request for applications to distribute the funding to school districts and charter schools. PED may also decide to contract directly with one of several nonprofit and for-profit circus arts groups in New Mexico and could provide services to public schools, including Wise Fool in Santa Fe, Project In Motion in Las Cruces, ABQ Circus Arts, or Moving Arts Española. The department would be required to create a standards-based application process to evaluate potential service providers, which may prove difficult given a lack of state content standards for circus arts.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

TB/mc/mhg