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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR <u>Jaramillo</u>	LAST UPDATED _____ ORIGINAL DATE <u>02/13/2024</u>
SHORT TITLE <u>School Drug Education</u>	BILL NUMBER <u>Senate Bill 231</u>
	ANALYST <u>Chilton</u>

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY24	FY25	FY26	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to House Memorial 59 and Senate Memorial 16.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From
 Department of Health (DOH)

Agency Analysis was Solicited but Not Received From
 Public Education Department (PED)
 Albuquerque Public Schools (APS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 231

Senate Bill 231 amends Section 22-13 NMSA 1978 to add education on substance use disorders and prevention. It adds to the existing curriculum requirements for sixth to eighth grade and also for high school graduation the requirement that age-appropriate instruction be given, both in English and Spanish, of the dangers of drug use, including opiates and especially fentanyl. Age-appropriate instruction would include:

- Fentanyl abuse and addiction prevention,
- Drug poisoning awareness,
- Methods of using opioid antagonists such as naloxone,
- Information about local resources for prevention of addiction, and
- Suicide and drug overdose prevention.

The material could be presented either by qualified school personnel or by other qualified entities.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, or May 15, 2024, if enacted.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation in Senate Bill 231. Costs would be incurred in publishing the new requirement and in developing curricula for the age groups considered.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico has the highest alcohol-related death rate in the U.S, at 86.6 deaths per 100 thousand people (up from 66 per 100 thousand in 2016), compared to 41.5 nationally, in 2020. This varies from 20 per 100 thousand in Harding County to 249.7 per 100 thousand in McKinley County. A DOH study shows use of alcohol killed more than 1,800 New Mexicans under age 65 in 2020. More people died from that than from Covid-19 in the first year of the pandemic in this state.

As noted by DOH:

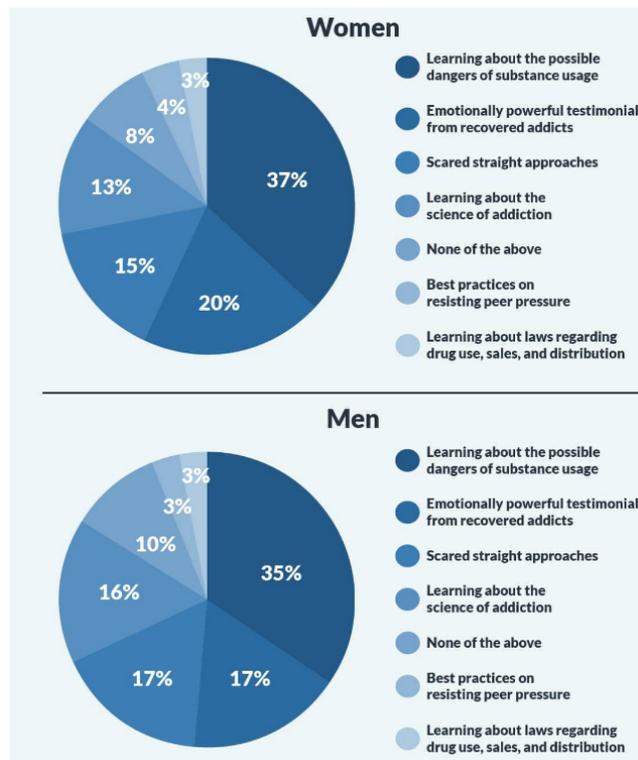
Adolescent substance misuse/abuse is a challenging issue in New Mexico. Teenagers in New Mexico are 37 percent more likely to have used drugs in the last month than the average American teenager. Additionally, 19 thousand or 11.42 percent of 12- to 17-year-olds report using drugs in the last month; 8.41 percent of all 12- to 17-year-olds used alcohol in the last month; 4.21 percent of all 12- to 17-year-olds met the criteria for an illicit drug use disorder (IDUD) in the last year; and 1.80 percent of all 12- to 17-year-olds met the criteria for alcohol use disorder (AUD) in the last year. Teenage Drug Use Statistics [2023]: Data & Trends on Abuse (drugabusestatistics.org)

Drug education in the classroom can be a very important protective factor when it comes to helping youth make healthy decisions when it comes to substance related decisions. School leaders, teachers, and staff can create safe environments and positive cultures for students. Schools can educate students and families about the dangers of drug use and about how to prevent misuse and addiction. Many evidence-based prevention programs can be delivered in a school setting. Schools can help to mitigate risk factors that can make students vulnerable to engaging in dangerous behavior and also boost protective factors that increase student engagement. Schools can be prepared if a drug poisoning or overdose occurs on school grounds. [In addition to providing substance abuse education], schools and school districts can support students in recovery and students whose family members are suffering from addiction. Preventing and Reducing Youth and Young Adult Substance Misuse: Schools, Students, Families | U.S. Department of Education

Drug overdoses, largely but not entirely due to opiates, especially fentanyl, contributed another 766 deaths in 2020 alone. The death rate from drug overdoses ranges from zero in Harding and DeBaca Counties to 129 per 100 thousand in Rio Arriba County. Overdoses occur in the ages to whom these educational programs would be presented; most could be reversed by use of naloxone.

Drug and alcohol use affects not only the addict but also members of his or her family and his or her community. Substance use by a parent is one of the more common “adverse childhood events” leading to premature morbidity and mortality among children in New Mexico. Communities are also affected by homelessness and by theft caused by substance use and the need to pay for the substances that are being used.

According to a study done by American Addiction Centers (americanaddictioncenters.org), three of four high school students had experienced drug education in a high school health class. Opinions differed as to what techniques used in the courses are most effective:



Aside from the content of the information presented, the method of presentation is also important. According to a 2018 study in *Journal of Education and Health Promotion*, lecture-based and video clip-based educational methods were found to be most effective.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Related to Senate Memorial 16 and identical House Memorial 59, both of which propose a task force to consider substance abuse issues.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

As noted by DOH, “It is important to note the challenges associated with SB 231. It is highly unlikely that the Public Education Department (PED) would be able to promulgate the rules

necessary to implement this requirement by the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, if the requirements of SB 231 mean the education content standards must be updated, it is highly unlikely that can be accomplished prior to the 2024-2025 school year. Finally, if a school/school district is to implement these new requirements but is unable to train the requisite staff in house, additional funding will be needed to secure other entities to provide the instruction.”

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