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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-6-06

SPONSOR Garcia, M.P. LAST UPDATED _____ HB HJM 40

SHORT TITLE Secretary of Health's Sex Education Decision SB _____

ANALYST Collard

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HJM 40

House Joint Memorial 40 requests support for the secretary of DOH to direct funds for abstinence-only sex education to grades six and below and provide comprehensive sex education to grades seven and higher. The joint memorial also advocates for increased funding for evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention strategies.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no fiscal implication associated with the joint memorial.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH supports this joint memorial and indicates designating abstinence-only sex education for grades six and below provides a clear message to younger students that abstaining from sexual activity is the best option. Older students, who may be sexually active, will be provided with comprehensive sexuality education, including abstinence education messages and additional information and resources on protection against sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and pregnancy.

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DOH and PED further indicate effective evidence-based programs: 1) have a specific, narrow focus on behavior; 2) are based on theoretical approaches that have been effective in influencing other risky health-related behavior; 3) provide clear messages about sex and protection against STDs or pregnancy; and 4) reflect the age, sexual experience and culture of the young people in the program. Comprehensive sex education teaches that abstinence is the best method for avoiding STDs and unintended pregnancy, but also teaches about condoms and contraception to reduce the risk of unintended pregnancy and infection with STDs, including HIV. It also teaches interpersonal and communication skills and helps young people explore their own values, goals, and options.

KBC/yr