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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Hall ORIGINAL DATE 2/12/2007  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 794  
SHORT TITLE Fight Obesity in School Children SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Aguilar

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to appropriations in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Department of Health (DOH)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 794 appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department for the purpose of funding a pilot program in five elementary schools partnering with a nonprofit organization, directed at health education and physical fitness to fight obesity and promote physical fitness in school children.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 208 shall revert to the general fund.

The LFC remains concerned with funding initiatives outside of the funding formula as it tends to disqualify school funding and diverts funding away from core educational needs.

Funding for elementary physical education is contained in the General Appropriations Act.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

At least 27% of New Mexico high school students and 24% of New Mexico's 2 to 5 year olds who participate in federally funded nutrition programs are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight. Overweight acquired during childhood and adolescence is likely to persist into adulthood and increase the risk for a number of chronic and debilitating diseases. As body mass index increases, so does the risk for hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. Early intervention in elementary school and earlier to prevent overweight is the key to counteracting this epidemic. HB 794 proposes to increase physical activity at the elementary school level for five schools. Increasing regular exercise for children in elementary school has been demonstrated to be an effective strategy for improving fitness and reducing body mass index.

PA/nt