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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Miera ORIGINAL DATE 2/2/2008
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 555
SHORT TITLE Civic Education Programs SB _____
ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$20.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB-490

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 555 appropriates \$20 thousand from the general fund to Public Education Department for the purpose of supporting programs that promote the importance of civic education.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$20 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 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Although the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) refocused a generation-long emphasis on the importance of “core” subjects such as math and reading in our schools, this renewed concern with academics has a blind spot. Recent research points to a disturbing imbalance in the mission of public education. It notes that the recent preoccupation of the nation with reshaping

academics and raising academic performance has all but overpowered a task of equally vital importance—educating our young people to become engaged members of their communities as citizens. A number of assessments, including the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), bear out the conclusion that levels of civic learning—and more importantly civic engagement—in the areas vital to the exercise of citizenship are disappointing

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