

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/05/08

SPONSOR Carraro LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Anabolic Steroid Abuse Education SM 51

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY08	FY09	FY10	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$36.0			Non- Recurring	General Fund
Total		\$11.8			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 51 requests the PED to implement prevention education for high school students to teach the dangers of anabolic steroid abuse.

The memorial provides for the following:

- Anabolic steroids are artificial substances related to male sex hormones that athletes often use to build muscle and improve athletic performance.
- Using anabolic steroids in this way is neither legal nor safe, and their use by athletes can cause heart problems, including cardiac arrest, liver disease and aggressive behavior.
- The national institute on drug abuse reports that, in adolescents, anabolic steroid abuse can halt bone growth and has been associated with damage to the heart, kidneys and liver, as well as problems with sexual development.
- There is a great deal of anecdotal evidence linking anabolic steroid use with suicide and extremely unpredictable and aggressive behavior.
- Despite all of the warnings issued by the health care community, adolescent athletes are under increasing pressure to use anabolic steroids in order to obtain a competitive edge when seeking sports scholarships and career opportunities.

Senate Memorial 51 – Page 2

- In light of the severity of the threat that anabolic steroids pose to adolescents, the states of Florida, New Jersey and Texas have passed legislation to implement anabolic steroid testing programs for high school students.
- The state of Oregon has passed legislation to provide for teaching students about the dangers of anabolic steroid abuse.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The PED reports the Department does not have staff resources or program funding to implement SM 51 as intended.

The memorial does not include an appropriation, but costs will incur for PED to develop and implement an anabolic steroid abuse prevention program. Based on the Department's estimates to implement a proven steroid prevention program, like ATLAS, it would cost about \$300 per school team. For 120 public high schools in the state and a minimum of one program per school, (\$300 X 120) the cost will be \$36,000. In addition, PED staff will be required to develop or disseminate the already proven program to school districts. Estimated staff time for an Education Administrator is 400 hrs x \$22.74/hr + 30% benefits = \$11,100.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Senate Memorial 51 requests PED to develop and implement an educational anabolic steroid abuse prevention program aimed at high school students to teach the dangers of anabolic steroid abuse.

The issue of anabolic steroid use in high schools was explored in 2005. The statewide steroid task force recommended prevention education for steroid use prevention.

The PED does not develop programs for implementation. Rather, the PED develops standards to which school districts must align local curriculum and programs. Drug prevention education is currently required as part of the New Mexico Health Education Content Standards with Benchmarks and Performance Standards.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

This bill relates to the PED's required Health Education Standards with Benchmarks and Performance Standards.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The PED will be requested to develop and implement an educational anabolic steroid abuse prevention program aimed at high school students to teach the dangers of anabolic steroid abuse.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to SB 202: enacting a new section of the Public School Code authorizing random drug testing for anabolic steroids among high school varsity athletes throughout New Mexico.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

PED notes that there are proven programs that give students the knowledge and skills to resist steroid use and achieve their athletic goals in more effective, healthier ways, i.e. the Atlas and Athena programs.

PED further notes that according to the National 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, only 4% of high school students reported ever having taken steroid pills or shots without a doctor's prescription one or more time during their lifetime as compared to 20.2% reporting having used marijuana and 12.4% having used inhalants. (CDC, 2006)

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Health Education Standards with Benchmarks and Performance Standards will continue to require districts to teach about drug abuse prevention, including anabolic steroid use.

AHO/bb