

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 342a

49th Legislature, 1st Session, 2009

Short Title: Public School Media Literacy Classes

Sponsor(s): Representative Antonio “Moe” Maestas and Others

Analyst: Eilani Gerstner

Date: March 3, 2009

AS AMENDED

The House Education Committee amendment changes language to allow, rather than require, that media literacy be offered as an elective in grades 6 through 12.

Original Bill Summary:

HB 342 amends the *Public School Code* to require that, beginning with school 2010-2011, media literacy shall be offered as an elective in grades 6 through 12.

Fiscal Impact:

HB 342 contains no appropriation.

Issues:

According to the Public Education Department (PED) analysis of HB 342,

- the New Mexico Media Literacy Project (NMMLP)¹ defines media literacy as the ability to critically consume and create media, including understanding the “text” (surface content) and “subtext” (hidden meanings) in messages received from: television, radio, newspapers, magazines, books, billboards, signs, packaging, marketing materials, video games, recorded music, the internet, and other media; and
- currently, New Mexico’s content standards identify some medial literacy content and expectations across content areas such as social studies and language arts.

Current law provides that, beginning with school year 2009-2010:

- students must take seven and one-half electives to graduate;
- student service learning must be offered as an elective; and
- financial literacy must be offered as an elective.

Related Bills:

None as of 03-03-2009.

¹ NMMLP was established in 1993 as an outreach project of the Albuquerque Academy and serves as a media literacy resource to school districts.