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**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
54th Legislature, 1st Session, 2019**

Bill Number	<u>SB249</u>	Sponsor	<u>Stewart</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.211921.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SPAC/SFC</u>
Short Title	<u>Youth Dance Program for Low-Income Children</u>		
Analyst	<u>Terrazas</u>	Original Date	<u>1/28/19</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 249 (SB249) appropriates \$500 thousand to the Department of Health (DOH) to provide low-income, at-risk children with access to a best-practice, character-building youth dance program in partnership with school districts throughout the state.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill appropriates \$500 thousand from the general fund to DOH for expenditure in FY20 and FY21. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

In a 2013 review of studies of how dance impacts learning, the National Dance Education Organization found incorporating dance into a curriculum can improve student test scores, lower dropout rates, improve learning in core subject areas, foster teacher and student morale, and support learning for disadvantaged students.

In January 2019, DOH awarded contracts of \$200 thousand each to National Dance Institute New Mexico (NDI) and Zuni Youth Enrichment Project to implement culturally and age-appropriate in-school youth dance, tribal dance, or physical activity programs in schools. The programs are required to target increasing physical activity, improving nutrition among children and adolescents in schools with at least fifty percent of students eligible for free or reduced-fee meals, and be designed to reach Native American, Hispanic, and African American students. Both programs will be required to conduct a quantitative and qualitative evaluation assessing program efficacy, behavior change, and health outcomes. DOH indicates the bill's provision aligns with the department's strategic plan to improve the health of all New Mexicans.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DOH notes the department would need to complete a process for request for proposals to distribute the funds appropriated in the bill.

RELATED BILLS

Duplicate of HB215, Low-Income, At-Risk Children Dance Program

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Department of Health (DOH)

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