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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Sanchez, B. DATE TYPED: 2/20/03 HB _____

SHORT TITLE: Require Health Credit for Graduation SB 488

ANALYST: L. Baca

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	Indeterminate				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Conflicts with: SB 74, Repeal Marching Band Credit

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From

State Department of Education (SDE)
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 488 amends the Public School Code, Section 22-2-8.4 NMSA 1978 to add one-half credit in health to the list of graduation requirements, makes the changes effective beginning with school year 2003-2004; substitutes the term “education for “fitness” in the physical fitness requirement; and adds marching band to the list of activities that, with local school board approval, may be used for physical fitness (education) credit.

Significant Issues

This bill reduces the number of electives to 8.5 from 9 and adds a requirement for a one-half credit health education course that some school districts may already be offering. The DOH and the SDE both cite the importance of physical activity to good health and to developing healthy, life-long skills and practices. With regard to the inclusion of marching band as an alternative to a physical education course, the DOH analysis cites a study conducted pursuant to SJM 17 and HJM 40 that were passed during the 2002 Legislative Session. One recommendation from this

study was: “Do not allow alternative credits for the physical education graduation requirement.” The SDE analysis appears to support this recommendation.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The fiscal implications of this bill are indeterminate. It is not known whether additional staff will be needed or whether school districts can accommodate the new requirement with existing staff.

Changing the terms “physical fitness” to “physical education”, according to SDE, will require that instructors be certified\endorsed in physical education. It is not known whether this will have any impact on school districts’ staffing needs.

AMENDMENTS

The DOH suggests deleting language on page 3, line 1, in Section 1.8, “with the approval of the local school board, participation in marching band or on an athletic sport during the school day may count toward fulfillment of the physical education required unit”

LRB/njw