

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 38

52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016

Tracking Number: .202536.1

Short Title: School CPR & Defibrillator Instruction

Sponsor(s): Senator Howie C. Morales

Analyst: Robin Shaya

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Bill Summary:

SB 38 requires the Public Education Department (PED) to establish a program in which a local school district or state-chartered charter school may apply for funding to offer students in seventh through twelfth grade training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). The bill appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to PED for the program in FY17. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 shall revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Impact:

The bill appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to PED for expenditure in FY17. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 shall revert to the General Fund.

At a Glance:

- Effective bystander CPR provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can double or triple a victim's chance of survival.
- CPR and AED training complement existing New Mexico standards for health education.

Detailed Bill Provisions:

The bill enacts a new section of the *Public School Code* to:

- require the secretary of public education, by September 1, 2016, to adopt and promulgate rules for implementation of the provisions of the bill, including rules to establish:
 - procedures for monitoring and ensuring compliance with the provisions of this section;
 - a process for local school districts and state-chartered charter schools to apply for and receive grants for training in CPR and the use of an AED; and
 - a process for PED oversight of grants to ensure they are used exclusively for:

- ✓ training in psychomotor skills-based CPR and the use of an AED;
 - ✓ the purchase of materials necessary for CPR and AED training;
 - ✓ the temporary hiring of an instructor or other training personnel to teach CPR and AED use;
 - ✓ resuscitation and the use of an AED; and
 - ✓ any additional cost related to CPR and AED training; and
- define “psychomotor skills-based cardiopulmonary resuscitation training” as instruction in CPR that uses hands-on practice to support cognitive learning.

Substantive Issues:

Additional courses offered in CPR and AED training could complement existing, required standards for health education in New Mexico. Current regulations require seventh and eighth grade students to describe situations requiring professional health services and students in grades 9 through 12 to be able to analyze situations requiring professional health services. According to PED, CPR training would reinforce these benchmarks because an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest would require professional health services, and a large part of the CPR process is ensuring that emergency responders are contacted.

The American Heart Association (AHA) recommends that hands-on training in CPR be a requirement for graduation from high school. Currently, AHA reports, 26 states require CPR training as a high school graduation requirement. Although not mandatory for graduation in New Mexico, HB 49 specifically provides funding for voluntary training in New Mexico schools, grades 7 through 12. Project Heart Start, part of the New Mexico Heart Institute, supports focus on this age group by stating “middle school age children are typically strong enough to start CPR training in the seventh grade and have shown great interest.”

If funding is available for New Mexico students to be trained in CPR and the use of AEDs, as HB 49 intends, it is likely that the number of able-bodied responders in the event of cardiac arrest would be increased in New Mexico. AHA states that almost 326,000 cardiac arrest events occur outside of the hospital each year. According to the AHA, “effective bystander CPR provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can double or triple a victim’s chance of survival.”

The Mayo Clinic describes CPR as “a lifesaving technique useful in many emergencies” and notes “CPR can keep oxygenated blood flowing to the brain and other vital organs until more definitive medical treatment can restore a normal heart rhythm.” The National Institutes of Health describes an AED as “a portable device that checks the heart rhythm and can send an electric shock to the heart to try to restore a normal rhythm,” noting AEDs are used to treat sudden cardiac arrest.

Technical Issues:

The bill does not allow for local-chartered charter schools to apply for funding.

Related Bills:

S 1 *First Aid & Electives for High School Grads*
 H 49 *School CPR & Defibrillator Instruction* (Identical)