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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Gonzales/Small **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/6/19
/Garcia **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** 401

SHORT TITLE School Library Watershed Science Curriculum **SB** _____

ANALYST Gaussoin

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	\$162.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Regional Education Cooperatives (REC)

No Response Received From

New Mexico Environment Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 401 appropriates \$162 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department for a comprehensive watershed science curriculum that provides public elementary school libraries with student workbooks and applied lessons.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$162 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

PED notes the bill does not specify if the curriculum would be provided to all public school libraries and does not seem to anticipate the need to replace workbooks yearly. In addition, the

bill does not indicate if the curriculum would be developed for all elementary grades or targeted at a few. Without identifying the number of students and libraries that would be served, it is difficult to determine if \$162 thousand is an appropriate amount.

REC points out the need for new workbooks annual will make it necessary to continue to fund the program or discontinue it after one year.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED reports the bill is unclear on whether the watershed curriculum will align with the science education standards adopted in 2018, NM STEM Ready, or cultural relevance, research-based effectiveness, and other criteria.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

REC indicates PED would need to establish an equitable process for distributing the funds. PED reports the bill will require contract administration from within PED's existing resources.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Are the workbooks and curriculum available for purchase or does PED need to find them?

Is the watershed curriculum intended to align with NM STEM Ready or supplement it?

HFG/gb