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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/28/19

SPONSOR Cisneros LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE School Media Literacy Program SB 194

ANALYST Liu/Woods

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	\$400.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB103

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Department of Informational Technology (DoIT)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 194 appropriates \$400 thousand from the general fund to PED for the purpose of a media literacy program for teachers.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$400 thousand contained in this bill will likely be a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

School policies that place technology into classrooms occasionally fail to recognize the role that teachers have on student digital literacy. Well-trained teachers can dramatically improve student's digital literacy skills. Teachers who are trained in media literacy can help students evaluate and question their sources, draw strong conclusions about various forms of data, and

develop creative ways of communicating information and solving problems.

Currently, most training services are funded and taught through a school district standard rather than a state standard. This bill may need additional language for the establishment of administrative oversight by PED and creation of standards taught to all educators.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The bill does not specify any details regarding program administration and oversight. Professional development programs that follow evidence-based practices are typically most effective. Developing an effective, evidence-based media literacy program for teachers will require PED resources. Incorporating the identification of desired outcomes and an evaluation for accountability evaluation would also require administrative resources.

DoIT notes that PED already has various methods of media literacy available. If the appropriation is used for an information technology solution, DoIT may need to review and approve proposals. DoIT may also be asked to provide technical expertise in the creation, design, maintenance, and security of the solution and would have to provide project guidance as part of the Project Certification Committee.

### **RELATIONSHIP**

This bill relates to Senate Bill 103, which makes an appropriation of \$650 thousand to PED for digital and media education and training programs in public schools.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

PED notes Common Sense Education, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping kids understand digital media, is one program for understanding media literacy and digital citizenship. Using Common Sense Education would avoid the necessity of creating something internally at PED.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

PED notes this bill and Senate Bill 103 could be consolidated into a single appropriation supporting both the teaching and learning of digital and media education. Furthermore, the sponsor might consider a sustained effort in this area, rather than a single year appropriation.

SL/CW/sb