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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/19/09

SPONSOR Kernan LAST UPDATED HB

SHORT TITLE Study Health Education School Requirement SM 99

ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 659 / Duplicates HM 127

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 99 requests the Legislative Education Study Committee to convene a task force, inclusive of the public education department, the department of health, higher education institutions with health education teacher preparation programs, school superintendents, school health educators, school counselors and other educators and community organizations focused on health issues to determine whether there is a need to include health education as a requirement for graduation from public schools.

The task force is charged with reporting its findings and recommendations to the LESC by January 2010.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None Noted. All participating agencies should be able to absorb any costs related to this memorial within existing appropriations.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Currently health education is required to be taught in the first, second and third grades; be one of the required programs in grades four through eight; and in ninth through 12th grades, instruction that meets academic content and performance standards shall be provided in health education.

The requirement for health education may be accomplished by integrating health education content in several required classes (i.e. teach about drugs in science, nutrition in physical education, etc.) or districts may meet the requirement for health education instruction at the secondary level by offering a stand-alone health education course. If taught as a stand-alone course then health education must be taught by a licensed PED teacher with an endorsement in health education.

There are currently 228 PED licensed teachers that carry an endorsement in Health Education.

According to the 2008-09 STARS 40th-day count, 54 of the 89 school districts currently offer health education as a stand-alone course.

Currently schools are required to align K-12 curriculum to the Health Education Content Standards with Benchmarks and Performance Standards.

Leading national education organizations recognize the close relationship between health and education, as well as the need to embed health into the educational environment for all students.

Promoting academic achievement is one of the four fundamental outcomes of modern school health programs. Scientific reviews have documented that school health programs can have positive impacts on educational outcomes, as well as on health risk behaviors and health outcomes.

PA/svb