

LFC Requester:	Sunny Liu
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2019 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

DFA@STATE.NM.US

{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Check all that apply: Date 1/17/19
Original **Amendment** **Bill No:** SB31
Correction **Substitute**

Sponsor: Michael Padilla **Agency Code:** 924
Short Title: SOCIAL WORKERS IN ALL HIGH-POVERTY SCHOOLS **Person Writing:** Daniel Manzano
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
N/A	\$3000.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20	FY21		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY19	FY20	FY21	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		See fiscal implications	unknown			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 31 (SB31) appropriates \$3000.0 to the Public Education Department (PED) to provide a licensed social worker in every high-poverty school. The program is to be phased in over three school years with one-third of social workers being hired each year.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The fiscal impact on the PED will be minimal. The PED will need to promulgate rules prior to the 2019-2020 school year. In addition, the PED will need to develop a system to annually verify compliance with the law. The PED has the option of developing exceptions to the requirements if a school district has a membership of 200 or less students.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Out of 145 Title I districts, 4 districts set aside district funds for a social worker a total of 4 FTEs. In order to receive Title I funds, the district must be considered high poverty. In order to be high poverty the district must have at least 85 percent or more of the students be eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Social workers in schools can provide benefit and support to students, parents/families and school personnel. Services to students include: providing crisis intervention, developing intervention strategies to increase academic success, assisting with conflict resolution and anger management, helping the child develop appropriate social interaction skills and assisting the child in understanding and accepting self and others. Services to parents/families include: working with parents to facilitate their support in their children's school adjustment, alleviating family stress to enable the child to function more effectively in school & community, assisting parents to access programs available to students with special needs, and assisting parents in accessing and utilizing school and community resources. Services to school personnel include: Providing staff with essential information to better understand factors (cultural, societal, economic, familial, health, etc.) affecting a student's performance and behavior, assessing students with mental health concerns, developing staff in-service training programs, assisting teachers with behavior management and providing direct support to staff. For more information see <https://www.sswaa.org/school-social-work>

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED will need to promulgate rules and a process to distribute the funding, one-third each year, and monitor compliance with the requirement.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The appropriation is to be expended in fiscal year 2020 and any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2020 shall revert to the general fund. However, the remaining two thirds of the social workers for school years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 are to be phased in. Currently, there is no appropriation for fiscal years 2021 and 2022.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to the Yazzie/Martinez court case, it was determined that PED had failed to provide sufficient resources for counselors, social workers and other non-instructional staff that all students, especially at-risk students, need to succeed.

ALTERNATIVES

None

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Social workers will continued to be hired in schools using the school districts general funds, Title I funds or IDEA B funds.

AMENDMENTS

None