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| <b>LFC Requester:</b> | <b>Sunny Liu</b> |
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS  
2019 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:**

**[LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV](mailto:LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV)**

*and*

**[DFA@STATE.NM.US](mailto: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:  
**Original**     **Amendment**    \_\_\_\_\_  
**Correction**    \_\_\_\_\_ **Substitute**    \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** 2/18/19  
**Bill No:** HB574

|                     |   |                                     |                                   |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Sponsor:</b>     | <u>Rep. Powdrell-Culbert, Rep. Harper</u> | <b>Agency Name and Code Number:</b> | <u>924 PED</u>                    |
| <b>Short Title:</b> | <u>DRUG COUNSELING PILOT PROJECT</u>      | <b>Person Writing</b>               | <u>Daniel Manzano</u>             |
|                     |   | <b>Phone:</b>                       | <u>505-670-3820</u>               |
|                     |   | <b>Email</b>                        | <u>Daniel.Manzano@state.nm.us</u> |

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

| Appropriation |         | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|---------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY19          | FY20    |                           |               |
| NFI           | \$300.0 | Nonrecurring              | General Fund  |
|               |         |                           |               |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

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

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

|              | <b>FY19</b> | <b>FY20</b> | <b>FY21</b>   | <b>3 Year<br/>Total Cost</b> | <b>Recurring or<br/>Nonrecurring</b> | <b>Fund<br/>Affected</b> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Total</b> | NFI         | NFI         | Indeterminate | N/A                          | Nonrecurring                         | N/A                      |

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: None as of 2/15/19

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None as of 2/15/19

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

**BILL SUMMARY**

House Bill 574 (HB574) creates a five-year pilot project to determine whether having licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselors in public schools helps improve school attendance, lower truancy rates, and better prepare students to set and achieve goals toward a drug-free life. HB574 requires that the Rio Rancho Public Schools (RRPS) work with the Public Education Department (PED) to design a pilot project that includes benchmarks, performance measures, hiring of at least three counselors and evaluations to determine the effectiveness of the program.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

HB574 appropriates \$300.0 non-reverting general funds to fund the project in fiscal year 2020 (FY20). HB574 also requires RRPS and the PED to seek public and private gifts, grants and donations to create a “drug counseling pilot project fund” intended to supplement the project budget. This funding will be used to pay salaries and benefits for at least three drug and alcohol counselors employed by RRPS. It is unclear how the required counseling positions will be funded past FY20, should gifts, grants and donations be insufficient to support the three positions.

The fiscal implication on the PED cannot be determined at this time. The PED is required to seek public and private gifts, grants and donations to benefit the project and the cost to complete this task cannot be determined at this time. HB574 also requires the PED to provide oversight in project development and administer and monitor the drug counseling pilot project fund as well as to provide approval for the purchase of goods and services necessary for the project.

HB574 will likely have a minor fiscal impact on RRPS for FY20 as the appropriation of \$300.0 will be used to pay for staff salaries, benefits and goods and services related to the project. Fiscal implications for RRPS past FY20 are unclear as the ability of the PED and RRPS to elicit gifts, grants, and donations in support of the pilot project is uncertain.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Alcohol problems have been linked to poor attendance, lower grades and increased dropout rates (Alcohol Cost Calculator for Kids, George Washington University Medical Center). Behaviors associated with substance use include a lack of motivation and self-discipline. Substance abuse is also linked with violent behavior such as bringing guns and knives to school (Council on School Health and Committee on Substance Abuse). The National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) shows that students with higher grades are less likely to use alcohol and drugs than classmates with lower grades (CDC).

School-based interventions can be an effective strategy for alcohol and drug prevention and provide a “systematic way of reaching young people.” Schools can address substance abuse through providing education, counseling, early intervention and referring students for assessment and intervention. Schools are also in an ideal position to partner with community programs, mental health professionals, and families to address youth substance abuse issues. School-based health centers also play an important role in counseling student in need of treatment and referring to appropriate services (Council on School Health and Committee on Substance Abuse).

According to the New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), Sandoval County, where RRPS resides, shows rates of alcohol and drug use similar to the state average. This may demonstrate that RRPS is an example of an average New Mexico school and an appropriate setting for a pilot project to address substance abuse prevention. Of the high school students that participated in the 2017 YRRS, 27.5 percent of students in Sandoval County 27.5 of all New Mexico students currently drink alcohol. A total of 22.4 percent of Sandoval County students had their first drink before 13, 10.9 percent binge drink, 30 percent use marijuana, and 8.5 percent use painkillers to get high.

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

HB574 has a short and long-term administrative effect on the PED and RRPS.

HB574 would require the PED to utilize existing staff to seek public and private gifts, grants and donations for the pilot project in FY21 and beyond. The PED would need to consult with RRPS in the design of the pilot project and development of benchmarks, performance measures and student and personnel evaluations. Additionally, the PED would need to provide ongoing administration of the drug counseling pilot project fund for the five-year period. HB574 requires the PED and RRPS to submit annual reports to the appropriate legislative committees for the duration of the project and a final report with recommendations at the end of the project. A final report shall be submitted to the governor and legislature.

#### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None as of 2/15/19.

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None as of 2/15/19.

#### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None as of 2/15/19.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

None as of 2/15/19.

#### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

RRPS will continue to identify and address student substance abuse issues using current resources and services.

**AMENDMENTS**  
None as of 2/15/19.