

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:
Original **Amendment**
Correction **Substitute**

Date 2/11/19
Bill No: SB391

Sponsor: Craig Brandt

Agency Code: 924

Short Title: HIGH SCHOOL G.E.D.
EXTERNAL DIPLOMA

Person Writing Analysis: Daniel Manzano

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
NFI	NFI	N/A	

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:

SB391 amends NMSA 22-2-8 to add a new high school diploma alternative. The “External diploma” would be a program for adults to earn a high school diploma, awarded by the Public Education Department (PED), based on a skills analysis conducted by an external diploma program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB391 does not include an appropriation. Applicants may need to pay out of pocket for the skills assessment required by the external diploma program.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB391 directs the PED to authorize an external diploma program that uses a skills-based analysis to award a high school diploma. At least one commercially available program exists that appears to meet the objective of SB391. The National External Diploma Program (NEDP) is an applied performance assessment system that assesses the high school level skills of adults and out-of-school youth. The NEDP evaluates the reading, writing, math and workforce readiness skills of participants in life and work contexts.¹ NEDP is a unique way for adult students to earn a high school diploma. Students who have acquired many of their high school level abilities through work, family, and community experiences can complete a high school diploma, opening the way to postsecondary education and improved employment options.²

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

An external diploma might improve career options for adults who do not yet have a high school diploma. It is unclear if such a diploma would undermine the value of a traditional diploma in the business community or if this legislation would result in more students opting out of completing their K-12 education.

¹ <https://www.casas.org/nedp>

² <https://www.onetcenter.org/paw/entry/40>

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Another alternative program for adult non-graduates is the high school equivalency program. GED and HiSET are two equivalency tests, and both are administered by the New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED) because HED has more experience in working directly with adults. Administering a new external, skills-based diploma may more appropriately be administered by the same personnel.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None noted.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None noted.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None noted.

ALTERNATIVES

None noted.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Adults who desire but do not have a diploma can earn an alternative through the GED or HiSET tests.

AMENDMENTS

None as of 1/31/2019.