

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Vanessa Hawker</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:** SB391SEC

**Sponsor:** Senate Education Committee  
**Short Title:** HIGH SCHOOL G.E.D. EXTERNAL DIPLOMA

**Agency Name and Code Number:** Agency Name and Code Number: PED-924  
**Person Writing:** Daniel Manzano  
**Phone:** 505-670-3820    **Email:** Daniel.Manzano@state.nm.us

**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)**

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

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: SB391  
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

#### **BILL SUMMARY**

##### Synopsis:

SB391SEC adds a new section to the school code to authorize a diploma program through the Public Education Department (PED) for adults who have not graduated from high school. The department-issued diplomas would be for adults who want a program that documents educational attainment through college and career readiness standards and skill assessment.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

SB391SEC does not include an appropriation. Applicants would probably need to pay out of pocket for the skills assessment and for the diploma.

#### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

SB391 directs the PED to authorize a diploma program that uses a skills-based analysis to award a high-school diploma. It is not clear in SB391SEC if the skills-based analysis would be through an external diploma program or developed within the PED. At least one commercially available program exists which appears to meet the objectives of SB391SEC. 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. <sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup>

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

A department issued 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 workforce, although evidence suggests any impact would be minimal.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.casas.org/nedp>

<sup>2</sup> <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 might most 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 noted.