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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2021 REGULAR SESSION**

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:

LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV

and

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{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 1/30/2021
Bill No: HB83

Sponsor: Rep. G. Andres Romero
CHANGE GRADUATION
Short Title: REQUIREMENTS

Agency Name and Code Number: PED-924
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY21	FY22		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY21	FY22	FY23		
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY21	FY22	FY23	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: HB163, School Financial Management Classes

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: N/A

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Bill 83 (HB83) would amend Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978, creating new high school graduation requirements beginning with students entering ninth grade in the 2022-2023 school year (SY22-23). New requirements would reduce the number of credits needed to graduate from 24 to 23; would eliminate the requirement that all students earn one credit of Algebra II; and would alter social studies requirements, including eliminating the requirement of one half credit of New Mexico history. Further, the bill would allow students to substitute a variety of courses for core courses.

The provisions of HB83 would apply to the SY22-23 and subsequent school years.

For a detailed breakdown of the proposed 23 credits required to graduate under HB83, see chart below.

Current Statute	HB83
Four (4) units in English, with major emphasis on grammar, nonfiction writing, and literature	<p>Four (4) units of English, with balanced emphasis on grammar, literature*, and nonfiction writing</p> <p>Any required literature course may be substituted with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technical writing; • communication skills; • Public Education Department-approved (PED) work-based training or career and technical education (CTE); • advanced placement (AP); • international baccalaureate (IB); or • other English courses that meet credit requirements and state English academic content and performance standards
Four (4) units in mathematics; Algebra 2 requirement; financial literacy eligible for core credit	<p>Three (3) units in mathematics*; no Algebra 2 requirement</p> <p>May be satisfied by mathematics courses that meet credit requirements and state mathematics</p>

	<p>academic or applied content and performance standards, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, or Algebra 2; • geometry or trigonometry; • probability and statistics; • construction or other applied mathematics; • computer-assisted architecture and design; • scientific technologies; • computer science; • computer science principles; • data analysis; • mathematical modeling; • fractal mathematics; • any AP or IB mathematics course; and • PED-approved work-based training or CTE
<p>Three (3) units in science, two of which shall have a laboratory component</p>	<p>Three (3) units in science*, two of which shall have a laboratory component</p> <p>May choose any three science courses that meet credit requirements and state science academic content and performance standards, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biology; • agriculture; • astronomy; • geology; • chemistry; • botany; • computer science; • environmental science; • environmental engineering; • physics; • culinary arts; • wildlife management; • any AP or IB science course; and • PED-approved work-based training or CTE
<p>Three and one-half (3.5) units in social science, which shall include: U.S. history & geography (1); world history and geography (1); government (0.5); economics (0.5); and New Mexico history (0.5)</p>	<p>Three and one-half units (3.5) in social science, which shall include: U.S. history & geography (1); world history and geography (1); government and civics (1); and economics (0.5)</p>
<p>One (1) unit in physical education, as determined by each school district, which may include a physical education program that meets state content and performance standards_or participation in marching band, junior reserve officers' training corps or interscholastic sports sanctioned by the New Mexico activities association or any other co-curricular physical activity</p>	<p>One (1) unit in physical education as determined by each school district; may be substituted by participation in marching band, junior reserve officers' training corps or interscholastic sports sanctioned by the New Mexico activities association or any other co-curricular physical activity</p>
<p>One (1) unit in one of the following: a career</p>	<p>One (1) unit in one of the following:</p>

<p>cluster course, workplace readiness or a language other than English</p>	<p>(a) a career cluster course; (b) workplace readiness; or (c) a language other than English</p>
<p>Seven and one-half (7.5) elective units that meet department content and performance standards. Career and technical education courses shall be offered as an elective. Student service learning shall be offered as an elective. Financial literacy shall be offered as an elective. Pre-apprenticeship programs may be offered as electives. Media literacy may be offered as an elective</p>	<p>Seven and one-half (7.5) elective units that meet department content and performance standards, unless the school district requires health education to be taken in high school, in which case elective units for high school students in that school district shall be reduced accordingly</p> <p>May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • student service learning; • pre-apprenticeship; • media literacy; • core subject courses not taken as requirements; and • other courses offered at the public school the students attends <p>Beginning with the SY22-23, any student in ninth through twelfth grade may undertake a capstone course as an elective; provided that elective capstone courses are required to be guided by a teacher, who may use outside experts or mentors</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>Beginning with the SY22-23, any student in twelfth grade may substitute a capstone course for any core subject requirement if the course is guided by a highly qualified teacher and meets academic content and performance standards</p> <p>Beginning with the SY23-24, any student in eleventh grade may substitute a capstone course for any core subject requirement if the course is guided by a highly qualified teacher and meets academic content and performance standards</p> <p>"Capstone course" means a multifaceted academic and intellectual experience that may take a wide variety of forms and that culminates in a final product or performance and includes a presentation on the final product or performance to a panel convened by the public school to evaluate the quality of the final product or performance</p>
<p>At least one of the units required for graduation shall be earned as an AP or honors course, a dual-credit course offered in cooperation with an institution of higher education, or a distance learning course</p>	<p>N/A</p>

* Beginning in SY22-23, delineation of required courses/substitutions may be made if the public school the student is attending and the student meet any of the required prerequisites.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB83 does not contain an appropriation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Following a national trend aimed at increasing academic rigor and, by extension, college readiness, New Mexico in 2007 increased the number of high school credits required to graduate. In addition to increasing the overall number of credits from 23 to 24, New Mexico began requiring that one of four mathematics credits be equivalent to Algebra 2 or higher.

In recent years, though, research has emerged showing that increasing credit requirements, especially in math or science, has not necessarily resulted in increased college readiness. A working paper from ACT found: “despite the introduction of higher graduation requirements in math and science, there was little effect on student course-taking, achievement, or college enrollment.” In regard to Algebra requirements in particular, ACT cited other research that found an: “algebra for all ninth graders policy found no improvement in student achievement, a drop in grades, and no change in college going.” The research also cited evidence that requiring Algebra, instead of increasing rigor, actually led to a watering down of course content.

According to a 50-state comparison done by the Education Commission of the States (ECS) in 2019, New Mexico is one of 14 states that currently require 24 credits. Three states require 23 credits, while requirements in the remainder of states vary from 13 to 22. The comparison also notes some states have begun to move away from traditional seat-time calculations, in which students earn credit based on the amount of time in a particular course, toward other forms of demonstrations of competency. HB83 begins a move in that direction by allowing students to complete capstone courses for elective credit.

Finally, HB83 would allow students to take a variety of courses in order to earn core credit in mathematics, English, and science, which is detailed in the chart above.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The PED would need to update administrative code related to graduation requirements, specifically related to Subsection A through D of the bill. School districts and charter schools may need to adjust course offerings to meet requirements. It is possible student choice may be limited by the availability of certified educators.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB83 relates to HB163, School Financial Management Classes.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

By reducing the number of required math credits from four to three, it is likely HB83 would result in fewer high school students taking four math courses. HB83 also includes pre-algebra in the list of approved courses for mathematics requirements. Pre-algebra has traditionally been a middle school offering and has not been included in option for high school credit. It is unclear what effect these changes might have on college readiness or student achievement on standardized assessments or college admissions exams.

HB83 eliminates the requirement that students take a one-half credit of New Mexico history. That requirement was added in 2005. In order to accommodate the additional requirement, the requirement for electives was reduced from eight credits to seven and one-half credits.

HB83 also eliminates the requirement that students earn at least one credit from an AP or honors course, a dual-credit course, or a distance learning course. During the 2019-2020 school year, 21,757 unique students took at least one dual-credit course and enrolled in combined total of 54,265 dual-credit courses during the same year.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

N/A

AMENDMENTS

N/A