

LFC Requester:	Sunny Liu
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2017 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 2/6/17
Original **Amendment** **Bill No:** SB219
Correction **Substitute**

Sponsor: Senator Linda M. Lopez **Agency Code:** 924
Short DEFINE & REQUIRE **Person Writing** Matt Pahl
Title: SCHOOL ETHNIC STUDIES **Phone:** 470-9909 **Email** Matt.pahl@state.nm.u

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY17	FY18		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY17	FY18	FY19		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(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: SB 219 defines and creates requirements for ethnic studies in grades four through twelve.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB219 makes no appropriation to cover administrative or materials expenses at the state and local level.

SB219’s requirement that “instruction that meets academic content and performance standards shall be provided in” ethnic studies would require the Public Education Department to create and approve content and performance standards in that area.

In addition, schools and districts will have to purchase additional instructional materials aligned with department-established content standards for ethnic studies courses.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB219 limits local control of New Mexico school districts. Nothing in statute currently prevents schools and districts from offering ethnic studies courses for credit as an elective or as a social science credit, though the 3.5 units of social science currently required must include one unit of US history and geography, one unit of world history and geography, and 0.5 units each of government, economics, and New Mexico history.

The definition of ethnic studies seems duplicative with New Mexico Social Studies Standards. Many teachers leverage these standards in the rich context of New Mexico history to accomplish the objectives in SB219. Social Studies Standards in New Mexico include the following:

- 1) 9-12 Content Standard 1: “Students are able to identify important people and events in order to analyze significant patterns, relationships, themes, ideas, beliefs, and turning points in New Mexico, United States, and world history in order to understand the complexity of the human experience”;
- 2) 9-12 benchmark 1-D: “use critical thinking skills to understand and communicate perspectives of individuals, groups and societies from multiple contexts”;
- 3) 9-12 benchmark 2-E: analyze and evaluate how economic, political, cultural and social processes interact wot shape patterns of human populations and their interdependence, cooperation and conflict”.

The content of these standards meet the intent of SB219, which defines “ethnic studies” as “the

interdisciplinary study of multiple perspectives through the examination of social, ethnic, cultural, gender and historical experiences to build critical thinking skills.”

SB219 adds ethnic studies to:

- 1) the academic content and performance standards required to be provided in fourth through eighth grades and
- 2) the course completion requirements for receiving a diploma of excellence. The high school graduation requirement mandates that, beginning with SY2018, students entering the ninth grade shall be required to complete 4 units of social science (up from the current 3.5 units), including 0.5 units of ethnic studies. For those same students, the elective requirements will be reduced from 7.5 units to 7.0 units.

The language in SB 219 (2)(J)(4) does not appear to clarify that current social science requirements of US history and geography, world history and geography, government and economics, and New Mexico history will continue to be required beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SB219’s requirement that “instruction that meets academic content and performance standards shall be provided in” ethnic studies would require the Public Education Department to create and approve content and performance standards in that area.

In addition, schools and districts may have to review and purchase additional instructional materials aligned with department-established content standards.

Completing both of the processes noted above by the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year may be unfeasible.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

High school graduation requirements will remain unchanged, though schools and districts could still offer ethnic studies courses for credit.