

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 2/19/2017
Original **Amendment** _____ **Bill No:** SB440
Correction _____ **Substitute** _____

Sponsor: Senator Ron Griggs **Agency Code:** 924
Short Title: ADJUNCT SECONDARY INSTRUCTORS ACT **Person Writing:** Matt Pahl
Title: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Email:** Matt.pahl@state.nm.us

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:

SB440, the Adjunct Secondary Instructors Act, allows for the licensure and employment of adjunct secondary school instructors, requires background checks for these roles, and participation in the performance based evaluation process.

SB440 also limits these instructors to courses serving grade levels 7-12, one-half of a full-time teaching workload, and limits school boards from having more than ten percent of their courses taught by adjunct instructors.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There may be an increase in revenue to the teacher licensure (397) fund due to an increase in licensure applications. That fund is an enterprise fund, and revenue generated through new applications can only be used to pay for the review of application materials.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB440 allows districts with an ongoing need for secondary instructors in specific subject areas to draw upon the talent and expertise in their community to teach certain courses with such content. For example, districts often struggle to recruit and retain teachers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The state has high levels of professional expertise in STEM fields. SB440 allows districts to leverage that local expertise to fill vacancies.

SB440 allows districts to create a deeper connection with the professional application of content taught in public schools. The New Mexico Common Core State Standards engender a deeper understanding of critical concepts and the practical application of that knowledge. Providing students the opportunity to learn from professionals who have experience utilizing subject area content will help these students be more ready for college and competitive in both national and international job markets.

SB440 provides a pathway to becoming a full-time teacher in the classroom. This is increasingly important when it comes to math and science teachers. Nationally, 29% of math and 15% of science teachers come from alternative teacher certification pathways¹. In New Jersey, a high-

¹ Feistritz, C.E (2011). "Profile of Teacher in the U.S. in 2011." National Center for Education Information

performing state, nearly 1/3 of teachers come from alternative certification programs². SB440 provides yet another pathway for content experts to join the profession.

Adjunct instructors as provided in SB440 must complete the same teacher licensure assessments that traditionally prepared teachers must pass in order to obtain a license.

SB440 will provide an additional pipeline for districts to recruit professionals from their community with content expertise and contract with these professionals to teach courses relevant to their professional degrees and/or background. This flexibility will allow districts to hire local content experts to teach secondary courses (grades 7-12) that may only require one or two sections, fill vacant positions, or replace teachers in certain classes that are unequipped to teach the subject area content of the class. Research from Teachers College at Columbia University showed that over one-third of high school teachers and over one-fourth of middle school teachers do not feel well-prepared to teach grade-level content standards to their students (Schmidt and McKnight, Teachers College Press, 2012). Creating the license provides schools with greater ability to serve the needs of secondary students by having access to more content experts.

Additionally, SB440 will allow small or rural districts to improve their ability to recruit teachers for needed programming in areas where qualified instructors may be unavailable through traditional means. There is a clear body of research showing teachers with more content knowledge lead students to higher academic achievement. A 2008 report from the National Bureau of Economic Research showed students with teachers that majored in math and science achieve higher test score growth than those that major in education. Further, research at the University of Michigan found teachers' mathematical knowledge was significantly related to student achievement gains.

SB440 creates the possibility for districts to hire adjunct instructors. Superintendents may choose to hire adjunct instructors. There is no requirement to hire adjunct instructors in New Mexico public schools.

SB440 limits adjunct secondary instructors to one-half of a full-time teaching course load, and additionally limits any school from having more than fifty percent of courses taught by adjunct instructors. SB440 also sets the following requirements for an adjunct secondary instructor license: a bachelor's degree; a minimum of three years' experience in each area of expertise in which the instructor will teach; passage of New Mexico teacher assessments in each subject area that will be taught; completion of a PED-approved pedagogy course; and any other requirements established by PED rule.

Finally, SB440 requires the adjunct instructors clear a fingerprint-based background check and participate in the performance based evaluation process.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB440 provides additional options to districts and schools to offer quality science, technology, math, and college and career readiness courses, which would enhance the ability of schools and districts to develop and provide 21st-century skills to all students.

² Title II Higher Education Act Data Files

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

SB440 allows for the adjunct instructors license to be valid for two years and requires the PED to create a process to convert this license into a regular or alternative teaching license at level 1, 2 or 3 depending on the years of experience in the field the instructor holds. Since SB440 requires the adjunct instructor to be evaluated like other teachers on staff PED already has a process in place for an adjunct instructor to convert their license to a full level 1 teaching license. With the current three tiered licensure system these instructor would not be able to move immediately to a level 2 or level 3 teaching license based solely on their years of experience in their field.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Districts will not have the option to better serve the academic needs of secondary students with expertise from their schools' communities. The flexibility of schools to hire nontraditional faculty for areas of need will continue to be limited, reducing access to qualified instruction of subject area content to New Mexico's secondary students.

AMENDMENTS