

FISCAL IMPACT OF THE NEVADA STATE ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, RECREATION AND DANCE INITIATIVE PETITION

FINANCIAL IMPACT – YES

Overview

The Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Initiative Petition (Initiative) proposes to amend the Constitution of the State of Nevada by adding a new section that would require every pupil in Kindergarten through Grade 12 to participate in a physical education (PE) class throughout the school year. For elementary schools, pupils would be required to participate for at least 150 minutes each school week and students in middle schools and high schools would be required to participate for at least 250 minutes per week.

The Initiative would require highly qualified, licensed and credentialed physical education teachers to provide the physical education classes, with teacher-to-student ratios that are comparable to those of other academic curricular areas.

Projected Fiscal Impact of the Initiative

The fiscal impact of the Initiative is dependent upon the number of students enrolled in a given year, as well as salary and operating costs for that year. For illustrative purposes, the Fiscal Analysis Division estimated the additional costs that would be incurred as a result of this Initiative, if the Initiative had been approved and was in effect for the 2005-06 school year. If the Initiative is approved, the 2009-2010 school year is the first school year it could become effective and the costs at that time are likely to be greater than this estimate due to increased enrollments and inflation in operating costs.

The fiscal impact would depend on how the provisions of the Initiative are implemented. Utilizing the statewide average teacher-to-student ratio, an estimated 2,470 additional PE teachers would be required at an estimated cost of \$120 million in the 2005-06 school year. If the initiative was implemented without reducing instructional time devoted to core subject areas, additional instructional minutes would need to be added to the school day. Assuming instructional time devoted to core academic subjects would not be reduced, the Fiscal Analysis Division estimates that 30 additional minutes would need to be added to the elementary school day and one additional hour would need to be added each day for middle and high schools. The estimated cost for adding additional minutes to the school day is \$137.3 million in the 2005-06 school year. With these assumptions, the Fiscal Analysis Division estimates that the additional costs of this Initiative would approximate \$257.3 million for the 2005-06 school year.

NOTE: Additional costs for facilities, developing standards for highly qualified status, teacher time spent on developing and implementing a PE curriculum with corresponding assessments, updating IEPs for special education students, and other costs related to program implementation are not included in this estimate.

Prepared by the Fiscal Analysis Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau – October 14, 2005