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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair  
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

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### **AB 101 (Medina) - Pupil instruction: high school graduation requirements: ethnic studies**

**Version:** July 15, 2021

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** August 26, 2021

**Policy Vote:** ED. 4 - 2

**Mandate:** Yes

**Consultant:** Lenin Del Castillo

**Bill Summary:** This bill, commencing with the 2029-30 school year, adds the completion of a semester-long course in ethnic studies to the list of state high school graduation requirements, and also applies all high school graduation requirements to charter schools.

### **\*\*\*\*\* ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE \*\*\*\*\***

**The following information is revised to reflect amendments  
adopted by the committee on August 26, 2021**

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

- The California Department of Education (CDE) estimates that adding a new graduation requirement in ethnic studies on top of other existing requirements, rather than replacing an existing course, this bill could result in ongoing General Fund costs of approximately \$276 million each year for school districts to comply. This estimate assumes that 1,686 additional teachers would be need to be hired at an average salary of \$83,000 (plus benefits). This estimate also assumes indirect costs of about \$37 million and an additional \$54.3 million for instructional materials. Staff notes that the activities necessary for school districts to comply with this measure could be deemed to be reimbursable by the Commission on State Mandates. These activities include the hiring of new teachers, providing additional training for teachers, facilities related expenses, and the purchase of instructional materials. However, actual costs would depend upon a determination by the Commission regarding specific elements of the bill that may be deemed reimbursable, should school districts file a successful mandate claim. To the extent that school districts are already requiring an ethnic studies course as a local graduation requirement, the related costs could still be eligible for reimbursement from the state.
- The bill's provision utilizing the Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) process to resolve complaints could result in additional, unknown Proposition 98 General Fund costs for the existing UCP mandate. A precise amount would depend on the number and extent of the complaints filed each year.

**Committee Amendments:** 1) Remove the provisions regarding charter school graduation requirements; 2) make clarifying changes regarding the ethnic studies course; 3) add intent language specifying that LEAs not use the draft curriculum that was not adopted by the Instructional Quality Commission; and add the Uniform Complaint Procedures process to resolve complaints regarding the bill's requirement.

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