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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**BILL NUMBER:** House Memorial 10

**SHORT TITLE:** Review Human Sexuality Ed. Standards

**SPONSOR:** Gurrola

**LAST UPDATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ORIGINAL 02/02/2026** **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ANALYST:** Chilton

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT\* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
LESC/PED	Choose an item.	Indeterminate but minimal	Choose an item.	Minimal	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses ( ) indicate expenditure decreases.

\*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Related to House Bill 191

### Sources of Information

LFC Files

#### Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

Public Education Department

Health Care Authority

#### Agency or Agencies That Were Asked for Analysis but did not Respond

Regional Education Cooperatives

Albuquerque Public Schools

## SUMMARY

### Synopsis of Choose an item.

House Memorial 10 requests the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) review current standards and practices for human sexuality education in New Mexico schools, noting the role of such instruction in promoting student health and well-being. The memorial directs LESC to assess existing programming and standards, identify areas for improvement, and develop recommendations to strengthen human sexuality education statewide. LESC staff are asked to submit a report of findings and recommendations to committee members by December 1, 2026.

The memorial further quotes statistics stating that 22 percent of New Mexico 15-year olds and 53 percent of 18-year-olds have engaged in sexual intercourse, more than half of whom have not used effective birth control, which can result in sexually transmitted diseases, unintended pregnancies, and depression and anxiety. It states that not all students in the state are receiving

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effective and comprehensive human sexuality education.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no appropriation in House Memorial 10 and there are no indicated fiscal implications.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

PED makes note of the provisions of existing state law relative to sexuality education in New Mexico schools:

Currently, statutory requirements for sex-related health education are limited to age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention training, in Section 22-13-1 NMSA 1978 for general health education requirements, and in Section 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978 for graduation requirements. Rule 6.12.2 NMAC, Health Services, requires each school district “provide instruction about [human immunodeficiency virus] (HIV) and related issues in the curriculum of the required health education content area to all students in the elementary grades, in the middle/junior high school grades, and in the senior high school grades.” This instruction must include “ways to reduce the risk of getting HIV / [acquired immunodeficiency syndrome] (AIDS), stressing abstinence.” Outcomes of such instruction should include the “ability to demonstrate refusal skills, overcome peer pressure, and use decision-making skills.”

Educational materials and the grade levels at which they are introduced are determined by local school districts. All instruction must be age appropriate.

The teen pregnancy rate in New Mexico has fallen consistently for the last twenty years, reaching 19.7 pregnancies per 1000 young women aged fifteen to nineteen; it had been 34.0/1000 in 2022, continuing a decline of more than sixty percent since the year 2000. It is unlikely that teen exposure to sexual intercourse has decreased by that amount; the decline is more likely to be due to both better education and more effective birth control methods. Nevertheless, it is clear that more progress should be made; New Mexico still had the sixth highest teen pregnancy rate among the states in 2022. On the other hand, sexually transmitted disease have not fallen; in fact, New Mexico primary syphilis rates increased more than six times, from 6.1 to 33.1 from 2011 to 2020, carrying with it the risk of increased cases of congenital syphilis, a very serious condition of newborns whose mothers have syphilis and resulting in brain damage, blindness, deafness, heart defects, and other problems.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

PED states that it would likely partner with LESC to work on recommendations to come from the review of current practices in human sexuality education.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

House Bill 191 would appropriate funds for generating education regarding sexual diversity; this would be related to House Memorial 10, but HM 10 does not discuss LGBTQ+ issues.