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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: Senate Memorial 16

SHORT TITLE: Data on Parenting Students in Higher Ed.

SPONSOR: Jaramillo

LAST ORIGINAL
UPDATE: _____ **DATE:** 2/3/26 **ANALYST:** Jorgensen

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT*

(dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Higher Ed. Dept. and Institutions	No fiscal impact	Indeterminate but minimal	No fiscal impact	Indeterminate but minimal	Nonrecurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Duplicates House Memorial 33

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis

Higher Education Department

Independent Community Colleges

New Mexico Tech

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Memorial 16

Senate Memorial 16 (SM16) requests the Higher Education Department (HED) to convene a taskforce to study and develop recommendations, and draft legislation for collecting data on parenting students in the New Mexico higher education system. The memorial names specific task force members including staff from higher education institutions, parenting students, a member of the children's cabinet, a representative from the Higher Education Department, and a representative from the New Mexico student parent alliance.

The taskforce report is to include an assessment of the current status of parenting student data collection and recommendations for implementing statewide data collection for higher education institutions. The report and recommendations are to be presented to the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee and other committees by November 1, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Memorials do not contain appropriations and are not enforceable as state law. The study requested in this memorial is within the normal operations of the agencies involved and is unlikely to result in significant costs. HED notes that should the taskforce meet virtually, there will be little additional costs, but in-person meetings could result in additional travel costs. New Mexico Tech estimated the costs of updating IT systems to track the data required would impose an additional cost of approximately \$8 thousand. This cost would affect institutions statewide and would be absorbed in the current operating budget.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED notes that collection of additional data on student parents could help determine whether student parents are persisting or completing at lower rates and could help direct student support strategies. The independent community colleges report that approximately 30 percent of community college students in the U.S. care for dependent children.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

House Memorial 33 duplicates Senate Memorial 16.

CJ/sgs/dw/sgs