

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE
LAST UPDATED

SPONSOR Varela HJM 36

SHORT TITLE Student Health and Fitness Report Card SB _____

ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 25 and HB 794

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 36 requests that the Public Education Department (PED) study the feasibility of implementing a statewide health and fitness report card program, with the goal of objectively measuring student weight and fitness levels, informing parents of those results and encouraging parents to work actively with their children to improve their levels. The PED would submit a report of the study, including findings and recommendations, to the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) prior to the second session of the 48th Legislature.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Department of Health reports that in New Mexico, 26 percent of high school youth and 24 percent of 2- to 5-year-olds who participate in federally funded nutrition programs are overweight or at risk for being overweight and these rates have been consistently increasing. Though national data indicate increasing trends in overweight in this age group, there is no system in place to capture weight status for children in K-8th grades in New Mexico or in most states.

House Joint Memorial 36 – Page 2

As part of his Healthy Kids plan, the governor announced the creation of the Healthy Schools Report Card. This assessment tool is designed to measure whether schools are complying with the initiative of removing unhealthy foods from the schools. This initiative does not however focus on individual student health.

The memorial makes mention of objectively measuring student weight and fitness levels, informing parents of those results and encouraging parents to work actively with their children to improve their levels. Currently, DOH and PED collaborate to conduct the New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), which collects BMI information through self-reported height and weight for high school students. At this time there is no other cost-effective means of monitoring children's student weight and fitness levels in schools.

Schools through either physical education programs or the school nurse could implement this type of report card without difficulty.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HJM36 refers to measuring student weight, but the best measure of weight status for youth is the Body Mass Index (BMI) percentile, which is calculated from height and weight and is specific to gender and age.

PA/csd