

LESC bill analyses are available on the New Mexico Legislature website ([www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)). Bill analyses are prepared by LESC staff for standing education committees of the New Mexico Legislature. LESC does not assume any responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**BILL ANALYSIS**  
**54th Legislature, 1st Session, 2019**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>SB370/aSPAC</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Soules/G. Armstrong</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.212045.1</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>SPAC/SFC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>Northern NM College Child Trauma Institute</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Rogne</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>2/20/2019</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u>2/26/2019</u>

---

---

**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of SPAC Amendment

The Senate Public Affairs Committee Amendment to SB370 (SB370/aSPAC) adds language which stipulates that SB370/aSPAC will require the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD); the Public Education Department (PED); the Higher Education Department (HED); the Department of Health (DOH); institutions of higher education; New Mexico Indian nations, tribes, and pueblos; and county and municipal governments to provide technical assistance and execute memoranda of understanding with the Institute for the sharing of “publically available and existing” data with the Anna, Age Eight Institute for the Data-Driven Prevention of Childhood Trauma and Maltreatment.

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 370 (SB370) would create the Anna, Age Eight Institute for the Data-Driven Prevention of Childhood Trauma and Maltreatment at Northern New Mexico College (NNMC). The Institute would use a data-driven, cross-sector system strategy to prevent adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) statewide, including providing services such as training, coaching, and supporting stakeholders in addressing root causes of adverse childhood experiences statewide by customizing community-based solutions. SB370 would require CYFD; the PED; the Higher HED; the DOH; institutions of higher education; New Mexico Indian nations, tribes, and pueblos; and county and municipal governments to provide technical assistance and execute memoranda of understanding with the Institute for data sharing. SB370 would also require the board of regents of NNMC to adopt and promulgate rules to govern the establishment, administration and duties of the Institute.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would appropriate \$5 million from the general fund to the board of regents of NNMC for expenditure in FY20 to establish, administer and carry out the duties of the Anna, Age Eight Institute for the Data-Driven Prevention of Child Trauma and Maltreatment established pursuant

to Section 1 of SB370/aSPAC. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

According to the Human Services Department (HSD), a workgroup would need to be convened to develop the strategic framework required in SB370/aSPAC. HSD anticipates they would need two FTE to meet the requirements of SB370/aSPAC. HSD also notes that there could be an opportunity to leverage additional Medicaid matching funds.

## **SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

SB370/aSPAC was inspired by *Anna, Age Eight: The Data-Driven Prevention of Childhood Trauma and Maltreatment* by Katherine Ortega Courtney, PhD and Dominic Cappello, both of whom have extensive experience in state welfare departments, much of it in New Mexico. The book highlights the need for better data and data management to help prevent ACEs, “there may be a lot of actors out there, but if we can get the right data together and tell the story of keeping all children safe as simply and intuitively as possible, solutions will become pretty obvious soon enough.”

ACEs are defined as 10 potentially traumatic experiences that fall into the categories of abuse, neglect, and other household challenges that occur before a child reaches their 18th birthday. A hallmark 1997 study revealed the connection between a high number of ACEs and an increased risk of unhealthy behavior, such as smoking cigarettes, and disease. ACEs can lead to toxic stress, defined as an extreme or extended activation of the body’s stress response, without the presence of adult support. Strategies for prevention and mitigation include home visits from professionals, which have been shown to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect, and quality early childcare and education, which offers children an opportunity to build secure attachments with caring adults and a pathway to resilience. When children have ACEs or do not have adequate opportunities to create these connections, their future educational achievement and life outcomes are negatively impacted.

According to Child Trends, a nonpartisan research center, 18 percent of children in New Mexico experienced three or more ACEs, outpacing the national average of 11 percent. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, successfully addressing the impact of ACEs requires assessing prevention needs and gathering data; applying effective and sustainable prevention approaches guided by the Strategic Prevention Framework, which outlines a process an organization, community, or state can follow to prevent and reduce abuse; aligning prevention efforts with the widespread occurrence of ACEs; and building relationships with appropriate community partners through strong collaboration.

According to NNMC, childhood and family trauma are important factors leading to many of New Mexico’s social and economic challenges. The Institute would be the first of its kind, aiming to address the underlying root causes of systemic challenges in New Mexico through a strategic, community-focused, technology-leveraged holistic approach. NNMC is uniquely qualified to host the institute, as NNMC serves a community with acute social and economic trauma-induced challenges, and is sensitive to the long-term impacts of child and family trauma. NNMC has been in consultation with the authors of the book *Anna, Age Eight* for over a year and have already created linkages to other higher education institutions in New Mexico on this issue. The long-term plan for the statewide implementation of the Institute’s county projects involves leveraging higher education institutions throughout the state as the anchor points for the important work at county and municipality levels.

According to the DOH, data on ACEs are being collected by the New Mexico Toddler Study, a follow-up study of the New Mexico pregnancy risk assessment monitoring system, which is administered through DOH. The study, which has not yet been public, indicates that over 32 percent of mothers reported having two or more ACEs; close to 30 percent of toddlers were reported by their mothers to have already experienced at least one ACE. DOH notes that the negative effects of ACEs are felt throughout society and can impact people of all backgrounds.

According to CYFD, some of the state agencies listed in this bill are already in the process of building a uniform data sharing system known as the HHS2020 project.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

According to PED, one or more FTE would need to be assigned to determine what data would need to be shared and develop the technical mechanism for sharing this data. PED also notes protecting data privacy would need to be addressed.

According to HED, SB370/aSPAC would likely increase HED's administrative costs related to the information technology functions and duties SB370/aSPAC assigns to HED, but further review is still needed to ascertain the full financial impact.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

SB370/aSPAC references "adverse childhood event" beginning on page 2, line 4 and continuing throughout the bill; the sponsors may want to consider amending this to "adverse childhood experiences" as it appears the intent is to reference ACEs and its surrounding research.

SB370/aSPAC refers to NNMC as "northern New Mexico college" in section 1, but section 2 refers to "northern New Mexico state school." The sponsors may want to consider aligning these references, though it should be noted current law references both "northern New Mexico college" and "northern New Mexico state school."

### **RELATED BILLS**

Related to HB173, Child & Family Databank Act, which would create an act to coordinate the data collection, storage, and sharing efforts among several state agencies to better implement evidence-based policymaking pursuing better outcomes for at-risk children and families.

Related to HB376, Abuse and Neglect Multilevel Response System, which would require CYFD to establish a multilevel response system to evaluate and provide services to children and their families or caretakers when a report of child abuse or neglect has been made.

Related to HB447, Track Children Between School & CYFD, would require a student to receive a unique identification number to be used for any records or databases in which a student is identified by name.

Related to SB202, Child & Family Databank Act, which duplicates HB173.

Related to SB634, UNM Child Well-Being Initiatives, which appropriates \$1.8 million to the board of regents of the University of New Mexico to improve and expand child well-being initiatives housed at the university.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files
- Legislative Finance Committee (LFC)
- Human Services Department (HSD)
- Department of Health (DOH)
- Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
- Public Education Department (PED)
- Higher Education Department (HED)
- Northern New Mexico College (NNMC)
- New Mexico Independent Community Colleges (NMICC)

**MCR/mc**