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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Pope **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/14/21  
**LAST UPDATED** 02/23/21 **HB** \_\_\_\_\_  
**SHORT TITLE** Military Family Early School Enrollment **SB** 272/aSEC  
**ANALYST** Becerra

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

	FY21	FY22	FY23	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	NFI	NFI	NFI			

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB113 and SB271.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of SEC Amendment

The Senate Education Committee amendment to Senate Bill 272 (SB272) changes the number of days within which a military family shall provide proof of residence in the school district after the published arrival date provided on official military documentation from ten days to forty-five days, giving the family a longer period of time in which to provide the school district proof of residence. The amendment addresses an issue raised by PED under the section “Technical Issues”.

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Bill 272 (SB272) amends the Public School Code, 22-1-4 NMSA, to prioritize enrollment for students identified as a child in a military family who will be attending public school in the school district during the upcoming school year and allow military families that will be relocating to a military installation in New Mexico pursuant to an official military order to enroll their children in public school prior to their actual physical presence in the school district starting in the 2021-2022 school year. Additionally, SB272 would require school districts or charter schools to accept electronic application for enrollment, including enrollment in a specific school or program with the school district or charter school.

Provisions of SB272 require a school district or charter school to provide the applicant with materials regarding academic courses, electives, sports, and other relevant information regarding the public school in which the student wants to be enrolled.

There is no effective date of this bill. It is assumed date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

This bill does not contain an appropriation and no additional fiscal impact is anticipated.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

*Current Efforts.* The Public Education Department (PED) reports 2,600 students from active duty military families, 425 students from families in the National Guard, and 335 students in families with someone in military reserve are enrolled in New Mexico public schools in the 2020-2021 school year. In 2010, New Mexico became part of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, an agreement that alleviates typically encountered school transition problems where the states agree to address specific school transition issues in a consistent way and minimize school disruptions for military children transferring between different state school systems. As of August 2014, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation to become members of the compact, which consists of general policies in four key areas: eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation.

SB272 provides more for military families than the compact by giving students from military families enrollment preference, allowing enrollment prior to the student's physical presence in the school district, allowing electronic enrollment, requiring school districts to provide information about the district, and allowing preregistration.

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

Relates to HB113, No Discrimination Based on Military Status, that amends the New Mexico Human Rights Act to include "military or veteran status" to the list of classes of people protected under the act.

Relates to SB271, Purple Star Public School Program, that requires the Public Education Department to develop a "purple star public schools program" to honor schools that work to welcome and recognize military families and ease their children's transition into a new school.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

In its analysis of the bill, PED suggests the sponsor may consider adding language that allows a student to attend courses remotely on enrollment. Additionally, the sponsor may consider amending the 10-day proof-of-residency period to 45 days because the 10-day period may not allow families quartered in a temporary lodging facility (TLF) to transition into a permanent residence within the desired school district.