



LFC Requester: Simon

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
BILL ANALYSIS  
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Check all that apply:

Original  Amendment   
Correction  Substitute

Date Prepared: 01/31 /25

Bill No: SB200

Agency Name and Code: PED - 924

Sponsor: Block

**PED Lead Analyst:** David Vincent

**Phone:** (505) 695-6574 **Email:** David.vinct@ped.nm.gov

**Short Title:** STATE HOLIDAY TO VOTE

**PED Policy Director:** Denise Terrazas

**Phone:** (505) 470-5303 **Email:** denise.terrazas@ped.nm.gov

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
None	None	N/A	NFA

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

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

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	Undetermined	Undetermined	Undetermined	Undetermined	Recurring	GF

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None.

## **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: Senate Bill 200 (SB200) would amend [Section 12-5-2 NMSA 1978](#) to include election day among the state’s official legal holidays. It would designate the first Tuesday in November as the “State Holiday to Vote.”

The bill does not provide an effective date. Laws go into effect 90 days after the adjournment of the Legislature enacting them, unless a later date is specified. If enacted, this bill would become effective June 20, 2025.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The bill does not contain an appropriation.

Providing a holiday for state employees would have an undetermined fiscal impact. Fulltime state employees who are required to work on the day a holiday is observed are entitled to receive increased pay at a rate of 2.5 times their normal hourly rate of pay, according to Rule [1.7.4.17\(C\) NMAC](#). According to [ZipRecruiter](#), as of February 2025, the average New Mexico hourly salary rate for holidays is \$25 per hour, compared to a national average of \$26 per hour.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

SB200 might enhance voting accessibility by establishing a designated holiday, which in turn could lead to higher voter turnout and increased civic engagement. The [Campaign Legal Center](#) reports that state legislatures, businesses, and schools can best support workers’ and students’ freedom to vote by instituting state election day holidays and mandating paid time off for employees. The [New Hampshire Secretary of State's Office](#) ranking of state voting rates over the course of the last several decades indicates New Mexico voter turnout is generally toward the middle of the distribution of states, ranging from a low of 44.5 percent in 1996, to a high of 56.5 percent in the 2020 general election.

In [New Mexico](#), state agencies and public institutions typically observe state holidays by closing their offices, providing employees with paid time off. This includes departments such as the Motor Vehicle Division, public libraries, and other state-run entities.

There are a number of school districts in New Mexico that cite election day as a holiday, including [Santa Fe Public Schools](#), [Albuquerque Public Schools](#) and [Los Lunas Schools](#).

Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New York, and West Virginia currently recognize election day as both a public holiday and require employers to provide paid time off for voting. Additionally, nine states have made election day a public holiday but do not mandate paid leave for voting.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

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

Companion to Senate Bill 483, Election Day as Holiday, which proposes the same addition of Election Day as a state holiday but also proposes to amend Section 1-2-42 NMSA 1978 of the Election Code to specify that employees who are necessary to the conduct of elections would not be excused from work.

Relates to:

- House Bil 172, "New Mexico Red & Green Chile Month," which proposes each August be observed as that month.
- House Bill 518, LGBTQ+ Day, which proposes the fourth Tuesday of January of every odd-numbered year be observed as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and Expansive Day.
- Senate Bill 218, Election Changes, which proposes multiple amendments to the Election Code.
- Senate Bill 409, "Football Monday" as public holiday, which proposes the second Monday in February be a legal public holiday.
- Senate Joint Resolution 11, School Elections Timing, which proposes amendments to Article 7, Section 1 of the New Mexico Constitution to allow school elections to be held at the same time as partisan elections.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

None.

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

None.

## **AMENDMENTS**

None.